

..... The GATEWAY

Holiday Issue



2006

Mav-Rec

Campus Recreation

Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building Hours

Monday - Thursday: 6:30 AM - 11:00 PM

Friday: 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM

Saturday: 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM

Sunday: 12:00 PM - 10:00 PM

HOLIDAY BREAK: DECEMBER 15-JANUARY 7



Campus Recreation's Holiday Building Hours

Dec. 15	6:30am-8:00pm
Dec. 16	10:00am-4:00pm
Dec. 17	Noon-6:00pm
Dec. 18-22	8:00am-6:30pm
Dec. 23	10:00am-4:00pm
Dec. 24-25	CLOSED
Dec. 26-29	10:00am-5:00pm
Dec. 30	10:00am-4:00pm
Dec. 31	Noon-6:00pm
Jan. 1	CLOSED
Jan. 2-5	6:30am-8:00pm
Jan. 6	10:00am-4:00pm
Jan. 7	Noon-6:00pm



See
our website
for proposed
expansion!

<http://www.unomaha.edu/wwwocr/renovation.php>

What to look forward to:

- Weight/fitness space - 15,000 sq. ft.
- Multipurpose rooms - Two 2,000 sq. ft./one 1,500 sq. ft.
- Spinning room - 900 sq. ft.
- Court gym (exists) - Three
- Multi Activity Court - 11,000 sq. ft.
- Jogging/walking track Expansion
- Large therapy pool/hot tub
- Juice bar/cafe - 300 sq. ft.
- Comprehensive student health center - 3,720 sq. ft.
- Campus Recreation offices - 3,920 sq. ft.
- IPC room - 2,500 sq. ft.
- OVC space - 4,000 sq. ft.
- 110 ADDITIONAL parking spaces

The proposed expansion of the HPER Building presents an exciting opportunity to positively impact the quality of life for students at the University of Nebraska Omaha. Focused specifically on student recreation and student-focused programs, the expansion builds new space for dedicated recreation activities, student health and beneficial expansion of programs supporting these student services. This project marks a new dawn for Campus Recreation at UNO, building on its many past successes.

Mav-Rec IM Sports

Intramural Sports Hours will
have the same hours as
building hours

DON'T FORGET:

Registration

January 8-January 18

HPER 205 or 554-2634

Registration is three easy steps.

- 1) Form a team of friends.
- 2) Fill out sport registration form.
- 3) Pay your deposit fee.

Entry fees:

- 5x5 Basketball (\$25.00 Deposit)
- 6x6 Volleyball (\$25.00 Deposit)
- 6x6 Dodgeball (\$25.00 Deposit)
- Racquetball Doubles (\$15.00 Deposit)

Registration takes place in HPER 205 from 10:00-2:00 M-F.

For more information contact

Chris Franck

554-2634

E-mail

cfranck@mail.unomaha.edu



Mav-Rec Aquatics

Check out Mav-Rec Aquatics for all
the activities offered for YOU!

<http://www.unomaha.edu/wwwocr/>
(click on Aquatics)

Do you want to learn how to swim? You
can learn from a coach with
our 40-45 minute classes!
\$7.50 Students/Faculty/Staff
\$9.00 for General Public

Come learn fancy dives to impress all
your friends with our Diving Classes!

Thinking of something fun,
thinking fitness,
or are you thinking triathlon?
Don't forget about our
Masters Swimming Program.
You can swim with a coach!
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\$5/month Freshman

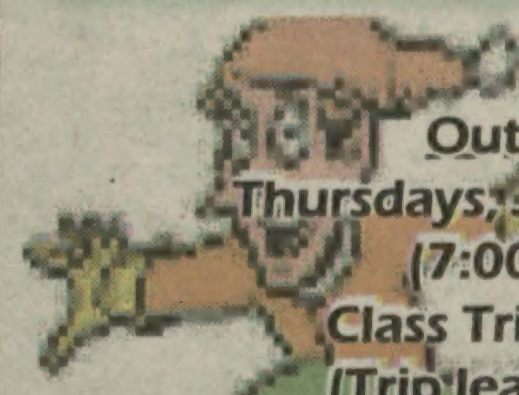
Mav-Rec

Injury Prevention and Care Program

Please refer to our
website for Holiday Hours

<http://www.unomaha.edu/wwwocr/ipc/index.php>

Mav-Rec Outdoor Venture Center



Outdoor Leadership

Thursdays, January 11th- April 26th

(7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.)

Class Trip: April 20th - 22nd

(Trip leaves Friday evening.)

This class is for those who wish to take others on outdoor activities and is a prerequisite for Outdoor Venture Center trip coordinators. This comprehensive course is an introduction to outdoor leadership, not outdoor activities. Therefore, prior outdoor experience is required (i.e. The Backpacking and Orienteering Basics class or equivalent experience). The course addresses the major environmental hazards and concerns facing the outdoor adventure leader, such as accident management, environmental ethics and use, liability and risk management, leadership philosophies, styles and competencies. The major emphasis is on accident prevention, but wilderness first aid and rescue are briefly addressed as well. Recreation and Leisure Studies credit is available.

Early Registration Cost: \$94 UNO / \$108 GP (includes trip)

Late Fee: \$15 (After 12/28)

Winter Break Trip

Skiing/Snowboard at Ski Cooper

Wednesday, Jan 3rd - Sunday, Jan 7th

Mandatory Pretrip Meeting: Tuesday, Dec 19th

(6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)

Join the Outdoor Venture Center for three days of skiing and snowboarding on the wonderful slopes of Ski Cooper outside the mountain town of Leadville, Colorado in the beautiful San Isabel National Forest. Hotel and lift tickets are covered in the price of the trip, but rentals are not included.

Early Registration Cost: \$332 UNO / \$382 GP

Late Fee: \$15 (After 12/15)

THE

GATEWAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1913



PRIZE WINNING
NEWSPAPER
2005
Nebraska Press Association

VOLUME 06

ISSUE 27

FRIDAY

December 8, 2006

Fired officer calls for Campus Security probe

TAYLOR MULLER
ASST. NEWS/SPORTS EDITOR

A former Campus Security officer alleges he was terminated because of the numerous improprieties he saw and disagreed with within the department.

William Croghan was in his probationary hiring period when he was terminated with no explanation. However, Croghan said it was because of a specific incident.

In a letter to the *Gateway*, Croghan identifies the incident he believes was the reason he was fired. Assistant Manager of Campus Security Paul Kosel declined comment on the specific allegations within the letter.

While on duty Nov. 19, Croghan was called to assist an officer in dealing with what appeared to be marijuana.

"There were three people in the vehicle; I witnessed them hiding a big bag, several of them," said Croghan. He estimated the bag at around one pound, which in Nebraska would be felony possession. According to Croghan, another officer responded to the scene and allowed the vehicle to leave, saying the police would take too long to get there and it was possible they might not do anything. A small amount of marijuana separate from the larger bags was confiscated in an evidence bag and logged into Campus Security.

The incident was reported in the Crime Security blotter for Nov. 19 and described the incident briefly: "Campus Security came up on a controlled substance violation in I lot. The controlled substance was confiscated and the non-affiliated suspects were released."

The *Gateway* has requested detailed copies of the incident reports from Campus Security, but received no response by press time.

Croghan said both he and the initial officer told the arriving officer there were more drugs in the car and advised him to call the Omaha Police Department. He allegedly replied, "I'm in charge and can do whatever I

See **CAMPUS SECURITY**: Page 22



photo by Patrick Doty

O! What a holiday tradition!

The Holiday Lights Festival has grown every year since 1999, when it first included the Gene Leahy Mall. The annual holiday tradition attracted record-breaking crowds this year. See complete story on pg. 7.

Christensen says UNO on track, Parts of campus still operational needs to look toward the future even after classes concluded

SCOTT STEWART
NEWS EDITOR

After a summer of controversies and the resignation of three key administrators, UNO Interim Chancellor John Christensen thinks the fall semester went well and the public perception of the university has improved dramatically.

"I think all things considered, we've had a good semester," he said.

Problems began this summer for the university with the elimination of five jobs including that of Deb Denbeck, then-associate athletic director, as part of a \$440,000 budget reduction for a department that, it was later revealed, had been operating in the red for a couple years.

After the discovery of several questionable expenditures, including the use of department money to pay for participation athletics fundraising golf tournament, then-Vice Chancellor for Administration Jim Buck resigned in August. Chancellor Nancy Belck followed suit in September, stepping down after providing altered expense reports to the *Omaha World-Herald*.

Last month Athletics Director David Herbster also resigned, saying the controversy had "diminished his ability to lead."

Christensen said he felt Herbster "probably made the right decisions for the right reasons." Christensen also said he

See **CHRISTENSEN**: Page 4

CHARLEY REED
ASST. A&L/PEOPLE EDITOR

The term "home for the holidays" usually brings up images of packing up the car or boarding a plane to visit relatives. The semester is officially over on Dec. 15, and many students, as well as faculty and staff, will be leaving Omaha to mark the occasion. However, there are those whose home is not only in Omaha, but on the campus itself. Those students aren't completely stranded.

While the campus may be closed over the holidays, that doesn't mean there aren't things going on. For example, if you are hanging around campus and want to release any post-semester stress, the Health, Physical Education and Recreation building is open

for most of winter break at reduced hours.

Joe Kaminski, director of campus recreation, said the building used to shut down when the campus shut down.

"That didn't go over very well," he said. "When housing came about, we were encouraged to be open when, really, everything else is closed. As long as there are students on campus we want to be able to have some services."

The HPER building will only be completely closed on the official holiday dates of Dec. 24 and 25 as well as Jan. 1. Kaminski said while the university is officially closed, Dec. 25 through Jan. 1,

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thought if Herbster didn't have "the kind of support that was required to be effective," then the decision was "based on the greater good of the campus and the athletic program" and "was a very responsible decision."

Herbster will continue to work at UNO until June, performing university promotion, development and outreach. He will report directly to Christensen.

"There are a number of initiatives that are ongoing that he was directly involved in and that he has expertise in that I wanted to capture," Christensen said. "Probably the most significant work that he will be doing, in addition to special projects that I would assign him, would be related to ... the development of a comprehensive marketing plan."

Overall, Christensen said he felt the internal controls called for after this summer's controversy had "by in large" been implemented and have been well received by the community.

"I have met with a number of people in the community, and I think really the gift of Bob Kruger is the exclamation point on that notion," Christensen said, referring to the \$1 million pledge last month by Robert Kruger, one of the co-founders of the Maverick Club, which was established in 1976.

"[Kruger] has been a very successful businessperson and involved in the banking industry, and he indicated to me that he hoped that the \$1 million gift would signal to any doubters that the internal controls are now in place and gifts are being used for their intended purpose."

Christensen went on to say that he believed that UNO

is "very much on track with the fundraising that we did last year" and he hopes to exceed last year's contributions by the spring. He said community involvement has been the No. 1 priority of his administration.

"I think probably the thing that needed to be done that I worked very hard at is to personally meet with individuals in the community as well as community groups, which provided an opportunity not only to talk about what we've done since September, but also to talk about where it is that we're heading," Christensen said. "I really think that the most important work that I've done is probably to spend a great deal of time in the community talking about the campus, the campus today as well as the campus tomorrow."

Looking forward, Christensen is optimistic that UNO will have its campus housing plan approved by the Board of Regents in January.

"The regents have approved campus housing. Now we're at the point that we're approving the process by which we would move forward, and I'm very hopeful that that will receive approval in January so we can start to work very specific planning and hopefully meet the timeline that allows us to get that in place and open by fall of 2008," he said.

Christensen also said that planning how to develop the Center Street campus as well as the renovation and expansion of the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building would be two other major projects in the spring.

"I would say the discussion of the renovation and expansion of HPER is a critical issue, and I know this is being discussed by students," he said. "So I see that one on

the radar screen, so hopefully we will be able to crystallize where we are on that project."

As far as athletics goes, Christensen further hopes to get the issue of conference affiliation decided "as quickly as possible" so the university can start internal planning.

"Whether it be North Central, [Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletics], or some other option ... I would like to have us in a position where we know where we're headed," he said. "That's very important to me."

In the more immediate future, Christensen said he was looking forward to the holidays and that he hoped students had "a good semester in the classroom" as well as "some fun along the way."

Crime Log

COMPILED BY
KEENA SPENCER-DOBSON
STAFF WRITER

Tuesday, Nov. 28

12:40 p.m. Student reported a theft of personal property from Roskins Hall. Incident occurred between 11 a.m. and 1:40 p.m.

1 p.m. Student reported fraudulent use of MavCard. Incidents occurred between Thursday, Sept. 7 and Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Saturday, Dec. 2

1:15 p.m. Visitor reported a theft of personal property from vehicle parked in Q Lot. Incident occurred at 1:15 p.m.

2:40 p.m. Student reported a theft of personal property from vehicle parked in Q Lot. Incident occurred between 12:45 p.m. and 2 p.m.

News You Can Use

COMPILED BY
KEENA SPENCER-DOBSON
STAFF WRITER

Participants needed for holiday caroling

The 32nd Annual Omaha Holiday Caroling Festivities will be held on Sunday, Dec. 10. This community service project started in Dow City, Iowa, as a way to assist the community's elderly.

The event begins at 2 p.m. in the main lobby of the Nebraska Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, located on Mercy Road. Caroling begins at 2:30 p.m. Participants include former Miss Nebraska Brook Matthews, Omaha City Council member Franklin Thompson, violinist Joe Taylor as well as folk singer and guitarist Terry Little.

A post-caroling party will be held at 4 p.m. at Godfather's Pizza located at 76th and Pacific.

For more information, contact Vincent J. Leinen at 818-342-9336.

Computer reimaging to start Dec. 18

Information Technology Services will be re-imaging computers in more than 120 "hi-tech" classrooms across the UNO campus starting Monday, Dec. 18. During this process, any programs or files saved to these computers will be deleted.

In order to save files stored on these computers, back up files should be made using myFolder or a flash drive by Friday, Dec. 15.

For a complete list of the affected classrooms, visit its.unomaha.edu/hitech.php.

"Study Sundays" at the Criss Library

The library is featuring a special program to help students prepare and study for finals. "Study Sundays" are hosted by the Criss Library, Student Health Services and UNO Food Service.

Sunday, Dec. 10 will feature a special stress-free zone, where students can receive a free stress kit, enter a drawing and learn how to relax. To pick up a free kit, stop by the stress-free zone, located by the stairway on the main stairs, from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Library Café will also be open during this time. It carries products such as Starbucks drinks, muffins, breads, pastries, sandwiches, salads and soups.

Production taps into UNO history

The latest production of the Grande Olde Players Theatre is called "Bootstrappers' Christmas" and provides a glimpse into the history of UNO. This play is being performed at the Grand Olde Players Theatre, located at 2339 N. 90th St., through Dec. 17. The show runs Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. as well as

Sunday at 2 p.m.

In this production, students of Omaha University want to remodel the campus Snack Shack in time for a holiday production. The main character is a bootstrapper that befriends a Cold War widow. There are many 1950s-era rock numbers as well as traditional Christmas music. General Curtis LeMay and Omaha University President Milo Bail's characters are based on prominent figures from UNO history.

Tickets cost \$15 for the general public, \$14 for senior citizens and \$5 for children. For tickets, call 397-5262.

Campus Security offers holiday safety tips

The following is a helpful list of safety tips given by Campus Security to make the upcoming holiday season a safe season.

- Lock it up, even if you're gone only for a few minutes.
- Avoid leaving valuables or packages in plain view in a vehicle by placing them in the trunk or between the seats.
- During the holiday break, take valuables home from campus offices and residence halls.
- Anyone who is going to be working on campus late in the evening or when few people are around should consider advising Campus Security so that an officer can pay special attention to the area.
- Make sure doors close completely so strangers cannot follow anyone into a secure building.
- Students who live on campus and are leaving town for the holidays should make sure they have someone keeping an eye on their residence and leave emergency contact information.

Poetry contest celebrates opera opening

Opera Omaha is holding a poetry contest to commemorate the opening of the opera *Wakonda's Dream*. *Wakonda's Dream* opens on March 7, with performances on March 9 and 11.

The competition invites young adults to write and submit original poetry based on the theme of dreams. Submissions are being accepted until Feb. 1 for four age categories: elementary school, middle school, high school and adults. Winners will receive gift certificates to Barnes and Nobles as well as *Wakonda's Dream* tickets.

The contest will culminate on March 4 with an event featuring Yusef Komunyakaa's live readings of selected submissions, the announcement of the winners and a sneak preview of the music and libretti from the opera.

To submit a poem, get full competition details or learn more about the festival events, visit operaomaha.org or call Tara Cowherd at 346-4398, extension 217. For tickets, visit operaomaha.org or call 346-7372.

WRITE TO US!

All readers are welcome to send their opinion or comments to the *Gateway*. Letters can be sent by mail, e-mail or fax. All letters should include the writer's name, address and phone number. Contact information will never be published. The *Gateway* reserves the right to reject letters or edit letters for clarity and space.

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THE

GATEWAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1913

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Group forms to search for chancellor



John Christensen

SCOTT STEWART
NEWS EDITOR

The search for a permanent UNO chancellor has officially begun.

On Tuesday, University of Nebraska President James B. Milliken got the ball rolling by announcing the formation of a chancellor search committee. The 12-member committee will spend the next few months attracting potential candidates to UNO, eventually culminating in the selection of a group of finalists who will then be reviewed by Milliken.

"The role of the search committee is to get the biggest, most diverse applicant group possible," said Dara Troutman, NU senior associate to the president.

To help in that endeavor, Milliken has been discussing possible search committee members since the resignation of Nancy Belck, who resigned as chancellor in September during a controversy surrounding the UNO athletic department. That controversy also resulted in the resignation of former Vice Chancellor for Administration Jim Buck and Athletic Director David Herbst.

"I just consulted widely with folks and relied on my knowledge of the university," Milliken said.

Milliken went on to say that he selected Shelton Hendricks, the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, to chair the committee because "he's one of the senior academic leaders on the campus" and, as a dean, Hendricks would bring "insight into the position of chancellor."

Bringing in different perspectives from a variety of backgrounds is an important part of selecting search committee members, Troutman said, and the ideal committee varies from search to search.

"You want to make sure that various constituency groups are represented," she said. "There is diversity of both gender and race on the committee."

Also noteworthy, Milliken said, is the presence of industry and community leaders on the committee, such as Union Pacific President and Chief Executive Officer James Young and Peter Kiewit Foundation Executive Director Lyn Ziegenbein.

Interim Chancellor John Christensen approved of the makeup of the committee.

"I think it's a very strong committee," he said. "I think it is very representative, and I suspect that they'll do an excellent job of identifying candidates for the position of chancellor."

When asked whether he will be applying for the permanent position, Christensen said he had not yet decided.

"As I've kind of said all along, I really feel an obligation to attend to the day-to-day responsibilities of the position, so over the holidays I plan to talk to my family and try to decide what we may or may not do," he said. "The great thing about the position I'm in is that I really enjoyed the position I came from and, regardless of what happens, I'm in a good place."

The committee's first task is to meet with Milliken to be formally "charged" with the task of conducting the search, Hendricks said. After that, the committee plans to start getting the word out about the opening.

"Right now, the search committee is working on approving an announcement for the position," Hendricks said.

Based on her prior experience with search committees, Troutman speculated

the group would meet six or seven times before deciding on a list of finalists. Milliken said he hopes this will be done in time to allow each of the candidates an opportunity to visit the campus towards the end of the spring semester, including meeting with faculty, students and staff.

Senior broadcasting major Latavia Adams, who serves as student government's legislative and public relations officer, is the sole student on the committee. She said she had not requested to be on the committee, but was asked to join it by Milliken after being referred by Student Government President/Regent Steve Massara.

"I received an e-mail today suggesting to meet sometime this month with the committee," Adams said. "I don't know much about the committee as of yet."

Adams encouraged students to get involved in the process and said she is open to anyone "who want to stop by and talk" about the search.

Anyone with suggestions for possible applicants or criteria should consider talking with members of the search committee, Milliken said, observing that was a primary reason the university published the name and title of everyone on the committee.

"I think the students, as is the case anytime a leader is selected for the campus that they're a part of, should be involved. I think it's extremely important for them to be involved," Christensen said. "There will be a number of interview opportunities, I would guess, and I would encourage [students] to be involved, as the next chancellor, whomever that may be, will obviously influence their stake in this institution."

Milliken said he felt optimistic about the search, reiterating comments he made in a statement. He said this is "obviously" an important time in the history of UNO.

"This is a time of remarkable innovation and progress that has created a tremendously positive momentum for the campus," he said. "There are so many positive things going on. That will enable us to attract a lot of very good people to the position."

The search process is expected to be completed sometime this summer, with Milliken hoping to have the next chancellor installed by August, roughly 11 months after Belck's resignation.

"We're looking for the very best candidate for this university," Hendricks said. "That's our top priority."



Captain Tom Wheeler stands in front of a banner commemorating the Douglas County Sheriff's Office's 150th anniversary. The picture in the back depicts two deputies from the 1920s and the new 150-year anniversary badge as well as the original badge. See unogateway.com for a listing of local agencies offering a free and safe cab ride home during the holidays.

photo by M. Iftikhar Husain

Sheriff's office to step up DUI enforcement over holidays

M. IFTIKHAR HUSAIN
PRODUCTION EDITOR

Over the holidays some students will spend time with their families, eat lots of food and consume incredible amounts of alcohol.

With that in mind, the Douglas County Sheriff's Department would like drivers to know that they will be continuing their "You Drink and Drive, You Lose" campaign, which began during the Labor Day weekend, to rid the streets of potential drunk drivers.

Captain Tom Wheeler said his department would be sending out teams of five deputies to conduct various checkpoints outside of the City of Omaha to catch people who are driving under the influence of alcohol.

"We want people to

know that drinking and driving is illegal and we are going to enforce it," said Wheeler.

He went on to say that the goal of the "You Drink and Drive, You Lose" campaign is to get drunk drivers off the streets and to prevent any further alcohol related deaths.

The campaign came into effect after a grant by the Nebraska Office of Highway Safety to decrease the number of alcohol related fatalities. According to their Web site, dmv.state.ne.us/highway, the number of alcohol related fatalities in Nebraska for 2005 was 81. The Office of Highway Safety

See **DUI**: Page 22

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For additional information, please contact Katie Sup, Advisor, School of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation.

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Procrastinators beware: Student aid deadlines are approaching

CHARLEY REED
ASST. A&L/PEOPLE EDITOR

The end of the 2006 fall semester may still be a week away, but it's time to start thinking about how you will be paying for the 2007-08 school year.

To apply for financial aid, grants or loans, students need to fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid application, which is available online or at the Financial Aid offices. Even students that have previously filled out the FAFSA form will need to renew for the new calendar year.

Jan. 1, 2007, is the start date for new applications and FAFSA renewals, while UNO's deadline for priority aid status is two months later on March 1.

Randy Sell, director of the UNO Office of Financial Aid, explained that students often hurt themselves financially by not

remembering those key dates.

"That's your best opportunity to get the best financial aid packaging we possibly can give you," he said. "The longer [students] wait after the March 1 date, the less funding there is going to be available."

Many students don't realize the financial aid office can't help them find the right type and amount of aid they can receive until the Department of Education processes his or her application.

"The financial aid packages can vary a lot between students," Sell said.

Jarod Hindes, a transferring sophomore from Metropolitan Community College, added UNO to his financial aid application and hopes to get more to help pay for the tuition increase when he renews his

See **FAFSA**: Page 22

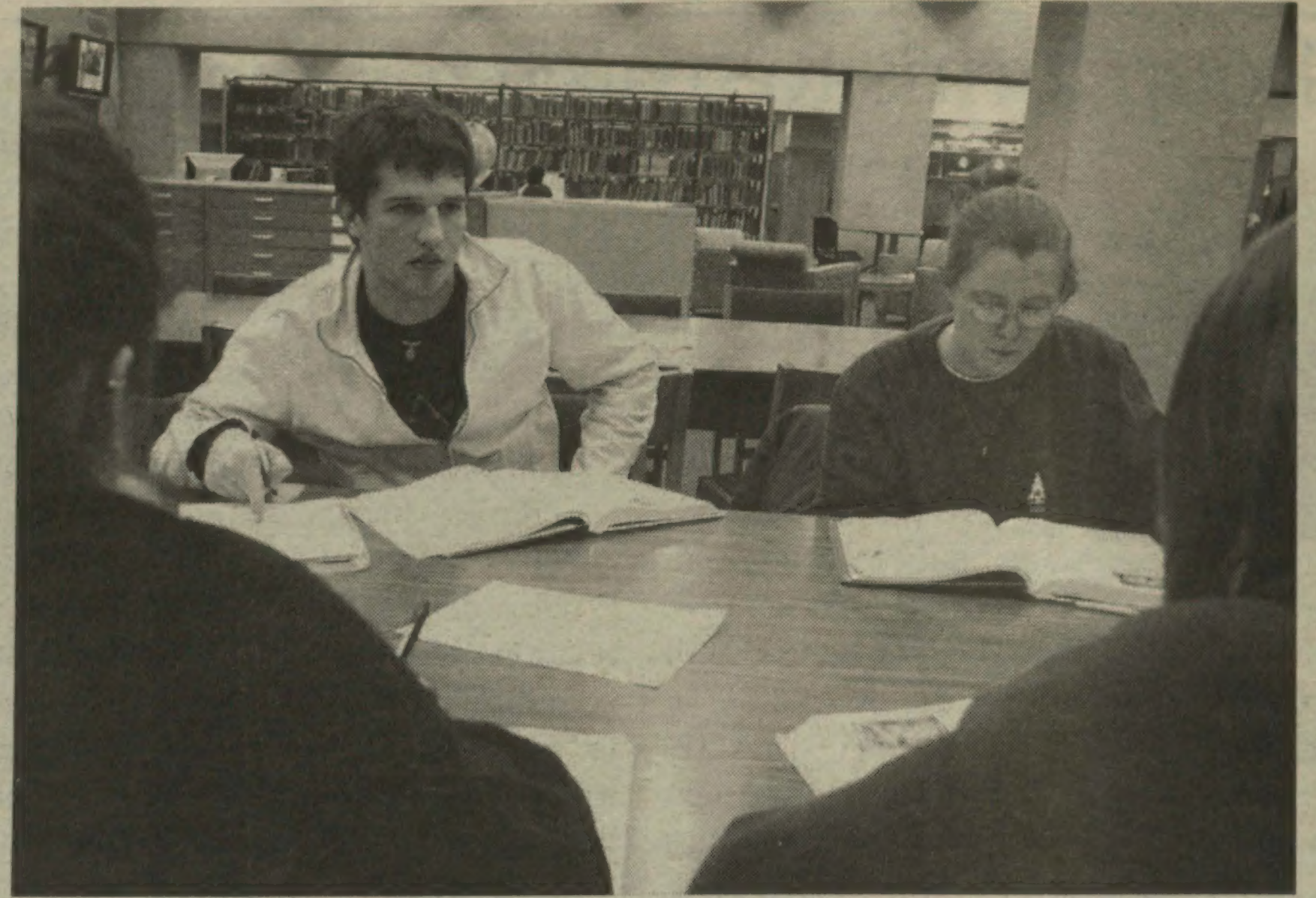


photo by Patrick Doty

Students looking for a quiet place to cram for finals need to look no further than the Criss Library this weekend.

Library, health services sponsors stress-free Sunday study sessions

JORDAN PLAGMAN
STAFF WRITER

This semester the UNO Criss Library is helping students prepare for finals by providing a stress-free Study Sunday at the library.

Study Sunday is a new strategy for the library each semester, which will provide fun and relaxing activities for students

the last two Sundays before finals. Gayle Roberts, promotion marketing specialist for the library, said the library will be open Sunday from 12 p.m. to 12 a.m. She said the café, the catalyst of Study Sunday, would be open from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The café will sell chili-cheese dogs and

See **FINALS**: Page 22

Smoking ban trial to begin in front of Criss Library upper entrance

ANDREW CUMBEE
A & L EDITOR

The chancellor's cabinet approved a preliminary smoking ban for the UNO library's underpass walkway on Nov. 30.

In October, student government asked UNO students three questions about a possible smoking ban. All three designated specific areas on campus where the ban would be in effect. Of the choices, a ban on the upper level of the library's south entrance garnered the most support, receiving 71 percent of the voters' approval.

"It had been a platform campaign issue for me from the beginning," said President/Regent Steve Massara about UNO's anticipated smoking ban.

Massara and President/Regent-elect Alexander Williams submitted a proposal to UNO's chancellor's cabinet and the ban was approved.

The pilot period of the smoking ban is set to begin on Jan. 8 and will serve as a model for the rest of the semester to determine whether will continue and whether more designated non-smoking areas will be added. Proper signage and new receptacles will be in place to help students learn about the walkway ban.

Massara said that he knows there will be some backlash, but that's expected. "I know there will be problems, but it's our job

See **SMOKING**: Page 22

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From **SHUTDOWN**: Page 3

the building operates like it would over a weekend. Other than a lone professional staff member, graduate assistants run the building's operations.

"Really the professional staff person is here in a support role," he said. "The students really do the day-to-day operations stuff on the weekends and then during our breaks."

Like the HPER building, the studios of KVNO Classical FM 90.7, located in the Engineering Building, operate straight through the holiday break.

"There is always someone in the broadcast booth," KVNO General Manager Debbi Aliano wrote in an e-mail. "We coordinate with facilities to ensure that the heat stays on during the holiday shutdown."

For the student interns who work at the radio station, they are given a bit more leeway if they have to travel out of town. "We will find substitutes for them," Aliano explained.

The library, even with its new addition, is observing the university's shut down dates. While the café has extended its hours to Sunday afternoons and evenings, starting last week to accommodate students studying for finals, the entire library is closed Dec. 23 through Jan. 1. The building reopens with the campus on Jan. 2.

While it may be closed, Criss Library Dean Steve Shorb said that doesn't mean that students can't renew books or do research. "Almost all of our journal content, e-books and many other resources are available online," he explained.

Shorb likes the downtime because it allows library staff to catch up on things they otherwise don't have time for.

"It's a great time for the library to upgrade our computer systems without inconveniencing students," he wrote. "We'll be re-imaging the PCs to make sure the latest plug-ins are available. We're also working on upgrades to our Web site that will result in new searching capabilities."

The Milo Bail Student Center, including its 24-hour, seven-day-a-week lounge, also closes its doors when the university shuts down. However, for that period of time between the end of the semester and when the university closes, the student center is operational.

"We just cut the food service back;

there's food service, we don't have all the places open," said Jim Welch, director of the student center.

Welch said the number of students really drops off during the holiday breaks, even if the student center is open. "You could drive a city bus through here," he said with a laugh. But he was quick to point out the importance of keeping the student center open during times that most, but not all, people are off campus.

"[Students] just want a place to be other than their living quarters, whether it be housing on campus or apartment," Welch said. "And they just get away from that and come hang out."

The one place on campus that never stops operation, regardless of the campus shut down, is Campus Security. "There's always people here 24/7," said Paul Kosel, assistant manager of Campus Security.

While the normal, everyday functions of Campus Security are always operational, that doesn't mean adjustments aren't made specifically for the winter break period.

"It always seems like every year, for the last several years, there's always been one or two burglaries where somebody's apartment will get broken into; sometimes things are stolen, sometimes they're not," Kosel said. "In the last several years, and we'll do it again this year, we'll add additional staff on certain nights to just do nothing but patrol those areas."

Kosel suggested that if students are planning on leaving their housing areas for the break, to take extra precautions like informing an RA or the building manager. Also, he said that to be safe, students might just want to take some items home with them.

"If you're going to be gone, you're going to head back home to wherever over the holiday, maybe you should take your laptop with you," he said. "If it's really expensive and important to you, you might not want to leave it here."

So if you are one of the few students who isn't going "home for the holidays," there are still plenty of options open to you on campus. However, if you are unsure of when a particular building might be open, just go its Web site, which you can find by using the search navigator on UNO's homepage.



photo by Patrick Doty

The annual Omaha Holiday Lights Festival runs from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day.

Holiday Lights Festival continues to grow, promote city of Omaha

CHARLEY REED

ASST. A&L/PEOPLE EDITOR

For the last seven years, a tradition has been growing in downtown Omaha: The Omaha Holiday Lights Festival. The festival has come a long way from its start as an

idea being tossed around the offices of the Downtown Omaha Inc. Foundation.

The annual event, which runs from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day, got its

See **HOLIDAY LIGHTS**: Page 9

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IN THEATRES FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22ND!

Go bananas! Omaha Zoo provides winter fun animal lovers of all ages

ELIZABETH ZIELINSKI
STAFF WRITER

While it might be considered a summer destination, Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo remains open all winter.

"We're open everyday during the winter except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day," said Jennifer Westfall, the zoo's assistant director of marketing. "And it's really nice this time of the year. There's no crowds, and the jungle and the desert dome are both really warm -- over 70 degrees."

Westfall said all the usual zoo services are available year-round.

"The only thing that we might stop for the weather is the trains," she said. "If it is too cold, we don't run the trams and trains."

She said that most of the zoo's animals are able to be outside most of the time, even during the winter.

"The past few years, the winters have been so mild that it was totally fine for them to stay outside," Westfall said. "Of course, if it gets too cold, they all have indoor spaces, too."

For animals that cannot remain outdoors in the winter, or for when it is exceptionally cold, Westfall said the zoo is prepared to move them indoors.

"Some animals, like the gorillas, are just warm-weather animals," Westfall said. "So them, we usually keep inside. They have a huge space underground. Their bedrooms are bigger than most people's

apartments."

Westfall said that even the larger animals have indoor accommodations.

"Their spaces are underground, so people don't even know they are there," Westfall said.

Westfall said the animals don't seem to mind having to move indoors to avoid the weather.

"It doesn't seem to stress them out at all," she said. "I think they like it. They have plenty of room inside, so they are comfortable."

Cold-climate animals, such as the zoo's polar bears, enjoy the cooler weather.

"Oh they like it," Westfall said. "It's like home."

In the evenings from Dec. 15 to Dec. 31, the zoo's trees, bushes and exhibits are decorated with lights for the Holiday Wildlights event, which features activities for children, such as holiday crafts.

Westfall said the zoo generally has over one million visitors per year.

"Spring and summer are obviously our busiest times. Then, we might get over 3,000 people through each day," she said. "During the winter, of course, it slows down. Then, we might get less than 1,000 people each day."

The zoo's IMAX Theater also operates all year. Westfall said the film *Happy Feet* will be opening at the IMAX on Dec. 22. Other films currently offered include *The Polar Express*, a holiday feature, in 3D.

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Student organizations bundle up, ring bells for less fortunate

ELIZABETH ZIELINSKI
STAFF WRITER

Volunteers from UNO student organizations will be collecting for the Salvation Army as part of the seasonal Red Kettle Campaign the week of December 4-7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. behind the student center, according to Barb Janousek, director of Student Organizations.

"Students really like it, because they can do it on campus," Janousek said. "It gives them an opportunity to get involved in the community, and the students really appreciate it."

Janousek said the Student Programming Association has been working with the Salvation Army for three years.

"The students like it so much, we called the Salvation Army again this year," Janousek said.

The drive is a popular volunteer option for campus groups.

"We were looking for a way to volunteer in the community, and someone suggested bell ringing for the Salvation Army," said volunteer Dayton Headlee. Headlee

will be representing the College Republicans for the second year in a row.

"When we found out they were doing it on campus, it just made sense," she said.

Janousek's office also worked with the Salvation Army for their Food Fight canned food drive, and said that many student organizations are participating in the campaign this year.

"It's great we've had such a response," she said. "Lots of groups are getting involved."

The Salvation Army serves over 34 million people nationwide each year, and the Red Kettle campaign provides funds for utility and housing assistance, child care and senior care, addiction treatment, food and toys during the holiday season.

"We're glad to help," Headlee said. "It's a good cause."



photo by Patrick Doty

Scott McClain rings a bell for the Salvation Army in front of Baker's on 132nd and Maple streets. A bell ringing marathon will begin at 11 a.m. on Dec. 15 at Nebraska Furniture Mart as well as the Irvington and L Street Wal Mart stores. The marathon will continue for 36 hours at the Wal Mart stores. Volunteers from UNO are invited to join the tintinnabulation by signing up at the SOLP office.

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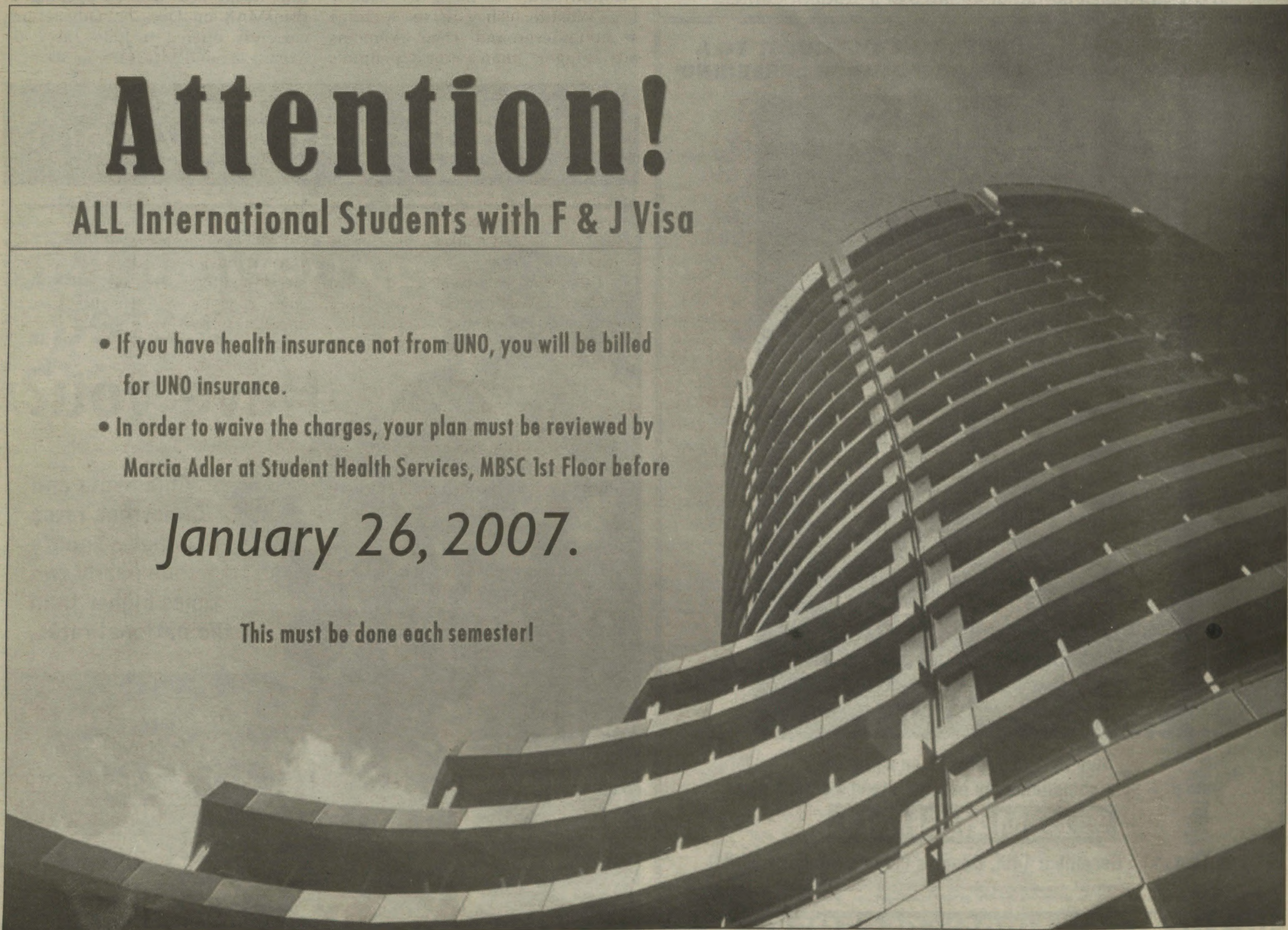
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Benefit concerts, Lambda Chi help raise toys for poverty-stricken

JORDAN PLAGMAN
STAFF WRITER

While the Grinch may have stolen Christmas, the "Lash LaRue Toy Drive" stole the hearts of several UNO Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity members.

The Lash LaRue Toy Drive is a fund-raising event collecting toys and money organized three years ago by Omaha musician Lash LaRue. LaRue is affiliated with members of the Ogalala Lakota Sioux tribe who live on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

Mike Burns, external vice president of UNO's Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, read about the toy drive and wanted to get involved.

"I was reading the *Gateway* newspaper and saw that Lash LaRue needed help raising money and toys for the children on the Pine Ridge Reservation," he said.

Burns said he didn't see anyone doing much about it on campus.

"I didn't think there was going to be enough response to it," said Burns. "I put this together because these kids deserve it."

Burns and other Lambda Chi Alpha members spread the word about the toy drive by setting up a table in the Milo Bail Student Center last Thursday and collected money for the drive from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

LaRue was doing an interview on Z-92's "Todd and Tyler" radio show when Burns phoned in and announced members of the fraternity raised about \$856 for the toy drive.

"I was completely surprised that they did that," said LaRue.

"It was hard to believe that in one day they raised that."

LaRue knows of the poor living conditions of Pine Ridge families, where the median income for most families is anywhere from \$2,600 to \$3,500 per year. The Pine Ridge Indian Reservation is one of the most economically deprived Indian Reservations in the country.

To make the holidays brighter for the children living in Pine Ridge, LaRue and local musicians John Henry, Brad Hoshaw, Kyle

Harvey, Sarah Benck, The Seth Walker Band, The Johnson Bros., The Side Effects and LaRue's band, the Mercurys put on benefit concerts on Dec. 1 and 2. Toys and money were collected at the doors of both Mick's Music & Bar as well as Murphy's Lounge.

Burns arrived at Mick's Music and Bar last Friday and handed the collected funds to LaRue.

The benefit concerts and outside participants raised a total of \$2,410 for the drive, which will enable LaRue to deliver three trucks full of toys to the Pine Ridge children in South Dakota on Dec. 15. LaRue will spend all night wrapping the gifts, and on Dec. 16 will take them to the Community Center in Porcupine where the kids will be waiting to receive the gifts.

LaRue said this was the toy drive's best year yet.

"It gets bigger every year," said LaRue. "I want to thank everyone who donated. None of this could have happened if it wasn't for them."

Students still wishing to make a donation can do so at the Intertribal Student Council's drop box in the Multicultural Affairs Office, north of the Fireside Lounge in the Milo Bail Student Center. Students, staff and faculty can drop off any wrapped or unwrapped toys until Dec. 12. A drop box is also available in the *Gateway* offices.

You can find more information regarding the Lash LaRue toy drive at myspace.com/lashlaruetoydrive.

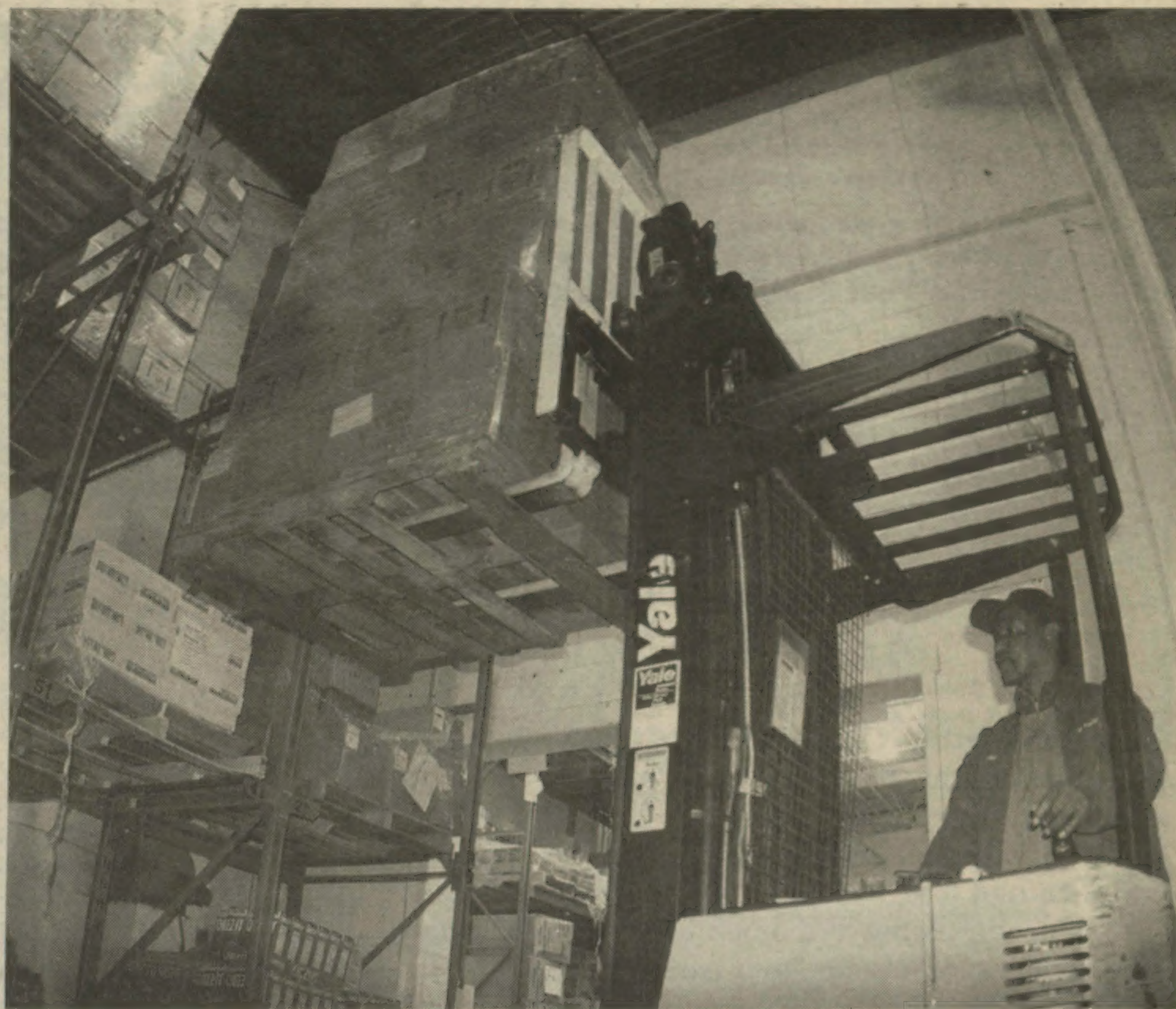


photo by Michelle Bishop

Michael Hollingsworth unloads a pallet of food at the Omaha Food Bank on Wednesday. The Food Bank distributes over 5 million pounds of food annually to more than 300 different charitable organizations.

Omaha Food Bank sees increased aid requests in community this year

JAMEE CLASEN
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Omaha Food Bank has already distributed 300,000 pounds more food than they had last year at this time, said Jewel Knapp, the Omaha Food Bank director of development and public relations. And she feels it has something to do with the state of the economy.

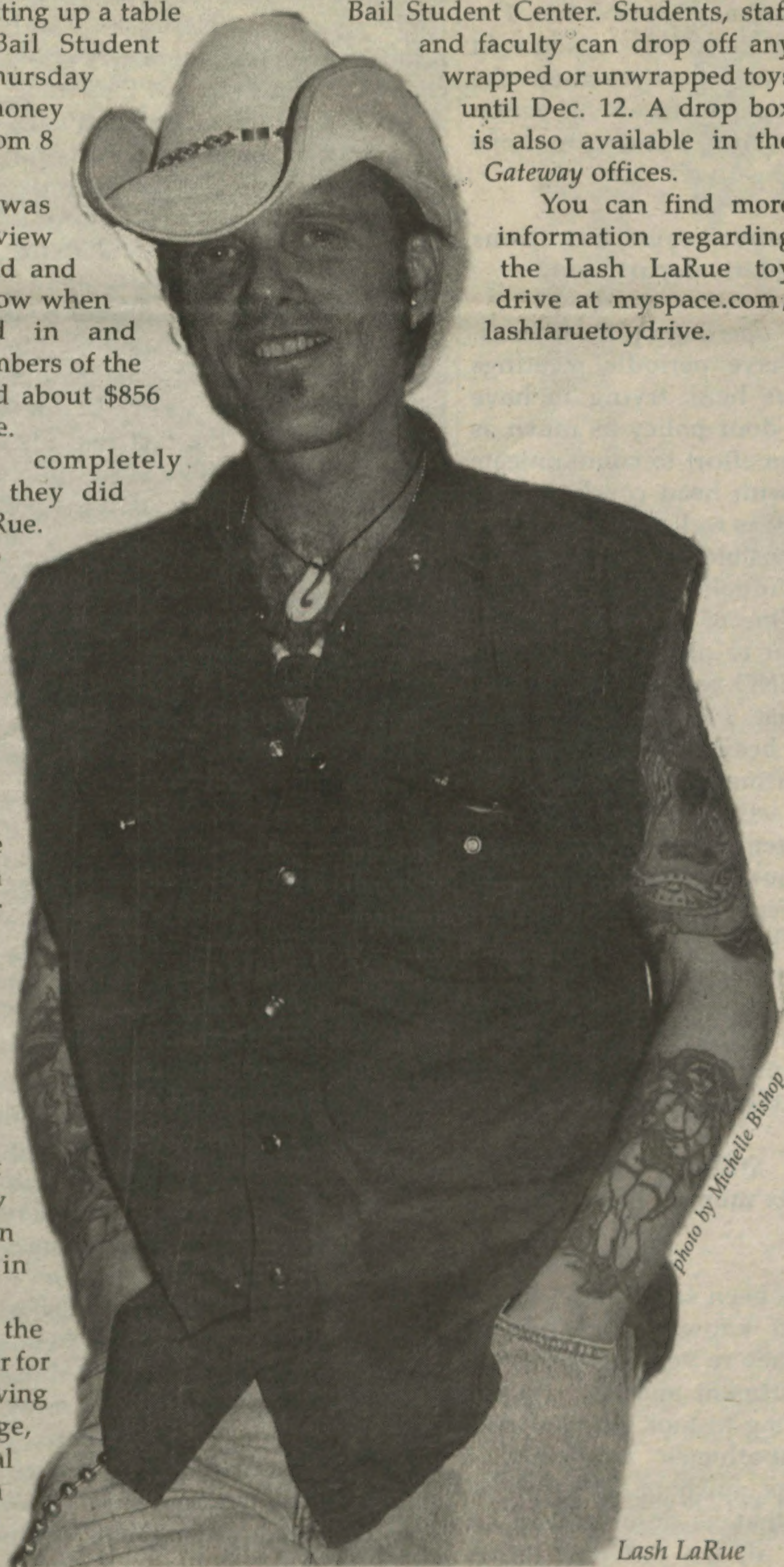
"What we hear is that the economy is good," she said. "But what we see is more people coming [to the

Food Bank], and we see more families running out of money before the pay period is over."

November and December make up the busiest months for the Food Bank, as people feel more generous during the holiday months, and the Food Bank prepares to assist with holiday meals.

"When we're cold, we think about people that are homeless, so we're thinking of people that are hungry,

See **FOOD BANK:** Page 23



Lash LaRue

From **HOLIDAY LIGHTS:** Page 7

start in 1997 when just 16th Street was lit up. But it grew to include the entire Gene Leahy Mall in 1999 as part of the Millennium Lights Celebration and now the more-than-a-million light display spans east to west from 19th to 8th streets as well as north to south from the Old Market district all the way up Abbot Drive.

The event will continue to grow, according to Marc Nichols, 16-year board member of Downtown Omaha Inc. Foundation, which co-produces the event with Mayor Mike Fahey.

"Every year since [1999] we've expanded the lighting," he said. "Our ultimate goal is to light everything from Leavenworth to Capitol and from the river to 19th Street."

But the evolution of the Holiday Lights Festival is much more than just an increase in the number of lights. Every year there are new additions to the festival's activities, which now include everything from a 15-ton ice sculpture display to weekly performances from local musicians. This year the Holiday Lights Festival has already had record-breaking crowds.

"We had 30,000 people show up for the lighting," Nichols said. "And we had the biggest crowd ever at the ice skating event that takes place after the lighting. We had 9,000 people show up at Qwest Center."

As Joe Gudenrath, a spokesman for Mayor Mike Fahey explained, the addition of events each year has made the festival a regional attraction.

"When you have these events they quickly become holiday traditions, not only for Omahans, but citizens throughout the region that will make the trip to Omaha," he said.

Making sure the events are Omaha-oriented has become a staple of the festival. For the last two years, not only has the festival been tied into Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce's "O!" campaign, but most of the festival's events have also been designed to showcase parts of the Omaha community. Chris Kircher, vice president of communications for ConAgra, which sponsors the event, has seen the impact that the festival has had on the city and vice-versa.

"There's just an awful lot to do," he said. "I think the Holiday Lights Festival has benefited from a commitment to downtown Omaha in terms of businesses moving down here, and people making this a place where they want to live work and play."

Nichols agrees.

"I think that the nicest thing is that people from not only the region, but particularly from Omaha, get to see what a jewel their downtown is," he said. "A lot of times particularly people out west don't venture downtown very often."

However, Nichols said that the biggest reward is having so many families make the Holiday Lights Festival a yearly tradition.

"That's just great to see that happen — to see the parents, kids and the grandkids and many, many different families coming down — so we're very proud of that," he said.

With the continued support of the city, Nichols is confident that the Omaha Holiday Lights Festival will eventually stand out among the competition.

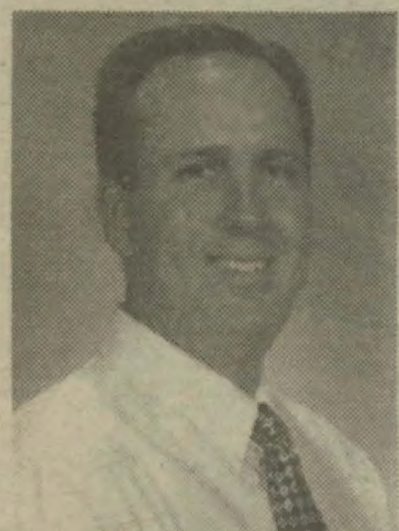
"We're the premiere lighting activity in the region," he said. "Where we're going is to be the premier lighting event in the country."

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Q & A with Interim Athletic Director Tom Frette



JASON GLENN
SPORTS EDITOR

You've been at UNO for almost 20 years now, was being named interim athletic director a surprising career development?

Tom Frette I mean, at this point in time, yes, when Dr. Christensen asked me to consider it, it kind of caught me off-guard at that point in time. But I had spoke with past athletic administration and university administration about different leadership possibilities and wishes that I've had and felt like could help in different ways. So, completely not off-guard, but the sudden timing of it took me by surprise a little bit.

How is the transition from head athletic trainer to interim athletic director going for you?

I would say it's good; it's hectic. You know, you just get hit from so many different directions and there's so many people that report to the director of athletics and trying to get an appreciation of everything that each of those parties do and how vital they are to the efficient functioning of the department, that's, I don't want to say overwhelming, but it's very demanding. And just trying to be around and be able to give answers to people and maybe not knowing all of those and trying to find out what those things are, it's demanding.

Are you still fulfilling any duties as head trainer?

No, as head athletic trainer, that's Rusty McKune. I've appointed him to take over my duties down there, that role of athletic trainer. All they're basically doing right now is just keeping me informed so I know what's going on with all of our athletes. But, no, with the demands of the day-to-day things up here, I don't get to spend the time with the athletes from a medical standpoint.

What did you feel were your best qualifications for being named interim athletic director?

Well, I've been running a department with staff members for many years, working with the budget on that side of it, just one part of the budget. I think probably just having a good understanding of the coaches' perspective, the department heads' perspective, that perspective of the student-athlete and, I guess, hopefully just trying to be able to be objective and try to understand everybody's concerns and needs and be able to help.

What do you feel is the most important aspect of the job right now?

Well, I think what I'm finding out is just contacts. Knowing who to contact within the campus for different issues, within the community for different issues. Everything you need to do in this position, or a big part of it, requires help from other people. So, identifying and getting an understanding of who those individuals are or who those companies may be, groups of people, and knowing who to go to for certain types of help - I think that's a big part of it, is understanding those contacts.

Are you interested in taking the job on permanently?

You know, I think with that it's probably too soon to say that. I don't think the position is even

officially open, as of right now. When that does become available, I'll evaluate it and evaluate my position and find out if it would be a good step for me and, probably more importantly, if it would be a good step for the department and I'll evaluate it at that point in time. But right now, it's just trying to fulfill Dr. Christensen's wish for the temporary position and do the best I can do.

Were you surprised by David Herbster's resignation?

You know, I guess I kind of go back and I respect David Herbster as a person and I respect his decision and I know that was certainly a tough decision for him and his family to make. He'd been through some challenging times and I'm just going to wish him the best with that.

Do you think that, with Jim Buck, Nancy Belck and, now, former Athletic Director Herbster resigning, it will be easier for the department to, specifically, rebuild the relationship with the boosters?

Yeah, I mean from everything that I've heard to this point, I think with Dr. Christensen's leadership, from what I've gathered to this point, I think things are certainly looking forward and are positive. The comments that I've heard in just a few days here in the office have been very, very positive about the direction of the athletic department, the direction of the university and everybody wanting to move forward. I think it's very positive.

How will you improve communications within and outside the athletic department?

Well, hopefully just by opening up those lines. I'm making a point to have periodic meetings with department members here, trying to have the old cliché of an open-door policy as much as possible, trying to make an effort to communicate with department heads, with head coaches, with assistant coaches, with staff as well as with campus community. Trying to be visible, trying to be able to talk with those individuals and then, same way in the community. One of the first things I did was I put a letter out to all of the boosters that are involved with UNO community athletic department. And with that, I mean that goes to all the people who have been involved with the university athletic department for many years back, whether it's been active or not, if they're involved in anything currently, from a committee standpoint or, you know, just general boosters and try to get the word out there that I'm trying to do the best job that I can do, that we need everybody's support and I gave them my contact information. I said, please contact me, phone or e-mail, at any point in time and to also let them know that I'm probably going to be trying to be in touch with them to see if we can ask them for some help.

How do think the athletic department's troubles over the past six months have affected the student-athletes?

Well, there's probably been some effect of the student-athletes but, you know, those student-athletes are wonderful, they're very resilient and I do commend the department and the campus community for really trying to look out and take into account the student-athletes' well-being. I think everybody made as much of an effort as possible to really keep that as a focus and so, hopefully, the impact of all the different things that took place would be minimal to the student-athlete. They're a great group of student-athletes and have done a nice job.

Maverick wrestlers place in Northern Iowa Open



JASON GLENN
SPORTS EDITOR

Cody Garcia

Another weekend, another tough match-up against Division I opponents.

And three more reasons to believe UNO wrestlers can compete with anybody in the country.

The UNO wrestling team traveled to Cedar Falls, Iowa, this weekend and brought home three second-place finishes from the Northern Iowa Open.

Cody Garcia, Ross Taplin and Jacob Marrs all made it to the finals in the 25-team meet that featured 12 NCAA D-I programs.

"We go to the best tournaments we can go to early. It's kind of like 'steel sharpens steel,' you know, we really want to wrestle against the best. This tournament was no different," said Coach Mike Denney.

Garcia compiled a 4-1 record at 125 pounds, overcoming opponents from Northern Iowa, Wisconsin and Nebraska before losing to Illinois' Gabe Flores in the finals.

Taplin, at 165, was also 4-1 on the meet, toppling wrestlers from Purdue, Nebraska and Illinois on his way to a narrow 9-7 championship defeat at the hands of UNI's 6th-ranked Nick Baima.

Marrs, who won the 197-pound Elite division at UNO's Kaufman Brand Open two weeks ago, put together a 3-1 record with wins over two D-II opponents and a major decision over Illinois' Jake Norman. He came up just short of another title, though, losing a 3-1 squeaker to Purdue's Nate Moore in the final match.

Denney said the fact that his 2005 season was cut short by a torn ACL has given Marrs a whole new motivation this year.

"He has really been on a mission since his injury, you know, when they gave him the go-ahead to start training ... he's been on a mission," said Denney.

Heavyweight Tony Lewis, who captured the Amateur division title at the Kaufman Brand Open, went 5-2 on his way to a fourth-place finish and true freshman Aaron Denson, filling in for J.D. Naig who sat out the tournament with a knee injury, came in sixth at 174 pounds.



Jacob Marrs

Other Mavericks competing in the meet included Marcus Hilario, 2-2 at 141; Derek Keasling, 1-2 at 157, and 184-pounders Nick Edmonds and Austin Boehm, who were both 2-0, but dropped out because of injuries.

In addition to Naig, 149-pounder Todd Meneely and 184-pounder Nate Oviatt weren't able to compete due to injuries.

Still, Denney was duly impressed with the performance of the younger members of his team.

"You know, five place finishers and not having some of our top guys in there, we thought we wrestled really well," said Denney.

The Mavericks next return to the mat Saturday in the Nebraska-Kearney Open.

The team will keep busy over the holidays, traveling to Northwestern University Dec. 29-30 for the prestigious Midlands Wrestling Championships.

The tournament, in its 44th year, attracts hundreds of the best wrestlers from across the country and has helped launch the careers of 81 Olympic wrestlers.

The week after they return, the Mavs will be heading to the Dana Open in Blair, Neb. where Garcia and Naig will be attempting to defend their titles from last year.

Comments? Concerns? Complaints?

Write the Editor at

editor@gateway.unomaha.edu

Men's basketball team uses second half run to beat York Panthers

JASON GLENN
SPORTS EDITOR

The UNO men's basketball team rode a 20-1 second half scoring streak to upend York College 80-68 Tuesday night at Sapp Fieldhouse.

Senior Zac Robinson scored 20 points, including four three-pointers, to lead the Mavericks to their fourth win in a row.

Robinson's performance from beyond the arc, which brought him to 35 on the season, moved him into second place on the UNO all-time list for career three-pointers with 187. He now stands 43 behind Mike Simons, who dropped 230 between 1996-2000.

Coach Derrin Hansen said Robinson has definitely emerged as the Mavs' go-to shooting threat, but his teammates have been a big part of his success.

"He's done a good job. Guys are getting him good passes, guys are setting good screens and then he's finishing the play by knocking down shots," said Hansen.

Despite Robinson's long-range prowess, it was a pair of back-to-back threes by junior Denny Johnston that opened the game up for the Mavs.

After UNO carried a narrow 38-37 advantage into the half, both teams fought for the lead early in the second period.

About midway through the half, though, Johnston connected on his threes and ignited a 15-0 run that helped the 6-3 Mavericks pull away from their non-conference foes.

The team's recent road trip might have had something to do with the close first half, said Hansen, but his team responded well when they needed to.

"We were pretty stagnant in the first half. I think we had a little bit of a hangover from our trip in Colorado, but then I thought our energy level got better there for a stretch in the second half and we got it up to 20 at one point and then just kind of took it in from there," Hansen said.

In addition to Robinson, three other Mavs finished the game in double figures. Johnston scored 14, Michael Jenkins added 12 and Jerry Bennett dropped in 11 points on the night. Bennett led the Mavs on the boards with nine rebounds.

Hansen said while he can't complain about the effort his team has been giving, they still aren't playing as well as they can. However, if they can hold on until some of their injured teammates return to the lineup, the coach said, they've got a good future.

"We played better last night and if we can keep improving there, I'll like our chances," said Hansen.



photo by Michelle Bishop

The UNO men's basketball team has won four games in a row, while battling a recent spate of injuries.

Women's basketball puts up big numbers

JASON GLENN
SPORTS EDITOR

Since losing to Kearney on Nov. 28, the UNO women's basketball team has gone on a tear, outscoring their last three opponents by an average of 36 points.

Peru State was the Mavs' latest victim, as UNO put on a clinic and walloped the Bobcats 95-55 Tuesday night at Sapp Fieldhouse.

It was the second game in a row in which the 7-1 Mavericks put up more than 90 points.

Senior Karen Thies, who was named co-NCC Player of the Week for her performances in UNO's previous two wins, led the effort with 24 points on 7 for 11 shooting and added seven rebounds and five assists.

With every player making the box score for at least one basket and one rebound, the Mavericks built a 55-27 halftime lead on 56 percent shooting and never looked back.

Alyssa Green added 13 points, Cayla Hargrove scored 12 and Lacey Geitzenauer chipped in 11. Ashley Nelson was the leading rebounder with eight. Nelson also scored six points, dished out two assists and blocked two shots.

UNO returns to action Saturday at 6 p.m., taking on York College.



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Questions?

Contact **Amy or Sarah**
554-2220

Mav Horns pep band: loud, proud, pumping up the Maverick crowd

ASHLEE SCHUETTE
STAFF WRITER

If you find yourself attending a UNO men's or women's basketball game, you'll notice that the loudest group there, by far, will be the Maverick Horns pep band.

Even when the team is down in points, you won't find that the pep band has lost any hope. They'll only cheer louder.

Ben Peterson, a History major and a percussionist for the pep band said it isn't hard to keep upbeat when the teams are down.

"I usually play the fight song louder when we are behind to try to keep the energy up so the team knows we are still behind them," Peterson said.

Fine Arts major Nick Harnack, a tuba player for the band, attends multiple UNO athletic events, not only basketball games.

"I am a Mav fan through and through," Harnack said. "There is not a team or sport at UNO that I don't support."

The students of the pep band not only attend and cheer fervently, they also keep track of the team when they're away.

Band members supported the teams by traveling to Lincoln in November to watch the Mavericks play the Huskers.

It's evident the band plays an important role for the players as well as the coaches.

"On multiple occasions the coaches have come over and thanked us for coming and playing," Peterson said. "Last Sunday, the women's coach bought the band pizza as a way to say thank you. The players and their parents have also thanked us after the games."

The band consists of roughly 15 to 20 members who play instruments from the piccolo to the tuba and plenty in between. Sometimes they even have a keyboard player.

In the beginning of the season they practice on Tuesday nights for returning members as well as newcomers. It's a chance for the band to play together and get everyone on the same page.

As the season carries on, they practice less and less, only coming together to learn new songs or work on others as needed.

The music the band plays varies. They play anything from jazz and swing to Offspring and AC/DC.

"Everyone in the Mav Horns is there to cheer on the team and to provide entertainment for the fans; otherwise, we would have no purpose being there," said Harnack.

The band does just that. They provide a lot of entertainment.

"When we play the 'YMCA', some members of the band will run on the court and dance to it," Peterson said. "The crowd always seems to enjoy that."



photo by Patrick Doty

The Mav Horn pep band keeps the crowd in the game at each home basketball game.

CAMPUS INTRAMURAL UPDATE



U.S. Cellular® gets me... so I can always get the score.

4x4 Volleyball

Wednesday Nov 29th

Lambda Chi Alpha B 0-2 vs Hustlers 2-0

Lambda Chi Alpha A 0-2 vs Hustlers 2-0

Thursday Nov 30th

Alpha Xi Delta Team 2 forfeit vs Zeta Tau Alpha

Alpha Xi Delta Team 1 2-1 vs Convivial Pursuit 1-2

Sigma Kappa 1-2 vs Chi Omega 2-1

Sunday Dec 3rd

#1 Dazed & Confused vs #8 Pink Fuzzy Gerbils forfeit

#4 Gregarious Travail vs #5 AFROTC Wolfpack

#3 The Penguins vs #6 MIP Pros

#2 Jerry-Rig vs #7 Purple Death Pandas

#1 Thunder vs #5 Team Jackass

#4 Spiked Punch vs Black Panthers forfeit

Taking you to school vs #6 Boogaloo Shrimps

#2 Power Rangers vs #3 Team ODO

#3 Average Joes vs #6 Zeta Tau Alpha

#4 Convivial Pursuit vs #5 Baja Babes

#4 Renobs vs #5 Sigma Kappa

#3 Alpha Xi Delta team 2 forfeit vs #6 Herber

Basketball

Monday Nov 27th

Das Boot 52 vs Triple Threat 47

Masters of the Universe 52 vs That Team 28

Wednesday Nov 29th

Cougars 51 vs The Balls 48

Hustlers vs Lambda Chi alpha forfeit

The Romans 59 vs Team FCA 47

Pike A 49 vs Sig Ep A 21

The Mixed Nuts vs Shockers forfeit

Pike B vs Sig Ep B1 forfeit

Thursday Nov 30th

Baja Babes 50 vs The Incredibles 34

Taking you to school 50 vs The Bus Drivers 64

Black Panthers vs Too Hot to Handle forfeit

Basketball (cont.)

Sunday Dec 3rd

Cougars forfeit vs Sig Ep A

The Mixed Nuts vs The Balls

Floor Generals vs Lambda Chi Alpha forfeit

Pike A vs Danza's

The Romans vs Crandell's Kids

Thunder vs Team FCA forfeit

Bullets vs Wowsho forfeit

Sig Ep A vs Hustlers

The Balls vs Floor Generals

Pike A vs The Romans

Thunder vs Bullets

Schweaties vs Pike B forfeit

Sig Ep B1 forfeit vs The Wildcats

Triple Threat vs Sig Ep B2

Repeat vs No Skills

Schweaties vs Ramrod

#1 Floor Generals vs Bye

#4 BioKnicks vs #5 Team America forfeit

#2 Flying Burritos vs #7 Zammit

#3 The Penguins vs #6 The Flaming Gophers forfeit

Floor Hockey

Thursday Nov 30th

Sigma Kapp 1 vs Zeta Tau Alpha 3

Alpha Xi Delta 0 vs Chi Omega 2

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Holiday movie season off to good start, only to degenerate quickly

COMMENTARY BY
ANDREW CUMBEE
A & L EDITOR

Holiday movie season officially kicked off with Thanksgiving break and the release of *Deck the Halls*. Oh, thank god. I thought I was going to get through 2006 and not have the chance to see a new classic Christmas comedy that will haunt all of my cable channels every December for the rest of my life.

How'd they even get this movie made without Tim Allen? Oh, that's right. He was too busy making *The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause*. Did that series really need the sentimental trilogy closer?

Well, besides these obvious blemishes, the season has not been that bad. Not excruciatingly bad, at least. OK, probably not the worst in the history of movies, anyway.

We were treated to a magnificent new James Bond film, which inexplicably came in second at the box office to *Happy Feet*, a movie that I didn't realize was a movie until it beat James Bond at the box office. That actually brings up a good point. Have we really gotten to that point where 007 is no longer a family outing in America? A dancing penguin movie beat James Bond? Other countries are laughing and calling us pussies.

Anyway, this is not the place for that thesis paper. What else can we expect at the movies between now and the end of the year? This season will

be packed as film studios are trying to cram all of their Oscar material into theatres

before the end of 2006. Here I'll tell you what you'll want to check out (like *Casino Royale*) and what you'll want to avoid at all costs (like *Deck the Halls*).

Now in Theatres

If you've yet to hit up your local movie screens, there are a few to check out to stay up-to-date on things. If you want a sure thing, *Casino Royale* is about the only choice there is. The new Bond movie not only reinvents the aging James Bond series, but all franchises and action movies,

which will feel the effects. This isn't a popcorn flick; it's a smart thriller with dramatic undertones.

Most other films have been hit and miss with critics and audiences. Emilio Estevez's love letter to Bobby Kennedy, *Bobby*; the Tony Scott/Denzel Washington thriller, *Déjà vu*; Darren Aronofsky's meditation on life, *The Fountain*; Will Ferrell's dramatic turn, *Stranger Than Paradise*; and Tenacious D's box-office bomb, *The Pick of Destiny*, have all received good and bad reviews sprinkled throughout their mediocre majority. According to non-critics, the response has been surprisingly the same.

Of course, if you don't want to take a chance, have seen Bond and are still looking for something, all the kid's fare is left. If you must choose between *Happy Feet*, *Deck the Halls* and *The Santa Clause 3*, please take the penguins. While most have said that it didn't make sense in any way, shape or form; it was directed by the guy that did the *Mad Max* movies. So at least you can pretend you had a good reason to see it.

Opened last weekend (Dec. 1)

The Nativity Story – I bet if I made "The Bible: The Movie," I'd be rich. Now, given, I'm not really the religious type, but even if I were, would I want to spend two hours and eight dollars watching the same story that I've known since before my own birth? No.

Van Wilder 2: The Rise of Taj – More like *Van Wilder 2: Piece of Garbage*. Except pretend that that rhymed more.

Turistas – It's like *Hostel* on an island. I really can't wait for *Hostel* on a peninsula. Or *Hostel* on an isthmus.

Opening this weekend (Dec. 8)

Apocalypto – This is Mel Gibson's big Mayan empire downfall movie. I won't lie; the film looks amazing. But after all of the Mel Gibson sucking up on TV and the whole "I blame my Jew hate on alcohol" thing, do I really want to see this movie? All right, truthfully, I just don't want to read any more. It's all subtitles. School is almost over for the semester. I'll check it out on video.

Blood Diamond – Leonardo DiCaprio, Djimon Hounsou and

Jennifer Connelly search for a priceless diamond. This sounds more like a James Bond title than *Casino Royale*. The movie was made to stir up talk about African conflict diamonds in the world. Actually, African conflict diamonds have played parts in two James Bond films and I've never heard anyone talk about them. Good luck with that all that...

The Holiday – Chick flick about an American girl and an English girl trading houses for the holiday season. Jack Black as a romantic lead? What the hell? You know what you're getting into if you see this film. If you are a guy, you should try to bring a girl to this one.

Unaccompanied Minors – If you are over the age of 13, go see something else. It's time to let your mind grow a little.

Opening Dec. 15

Charlotte's Web – You know the story. Ehh. Not that I'm not a huge *Charlotte's Web* fan, because I am, but I'll stick with the animated classic if I ever need a refresher on the dancing pig. Or I'll watch *Babe* (because it was directed by the guy that did the *Mad Max* movies).

Eragon – I realize a teenager wrote the book this was based on and that's cool, but it kind of looks like *Harry Potter* and *Reign of Fire* had a baby and peed on it. I'm writing a movie called *Eroll*. It's about a troll.



Touchstone Pictures

Mel Gibson hopes to win back some of his lost fans with *Apocalypto*, a film about the Mayan empire.



Sony Pictures

The Pursuit of Happyness – Will Smith takes custody of his son, but he's poor and has to find a job. This is the first movie on the list that I will for sure see opening weekend. Smith's real life son, Jaden, plays the kid in the movie. My only question: Did his Afro get a screen credit for its performance?

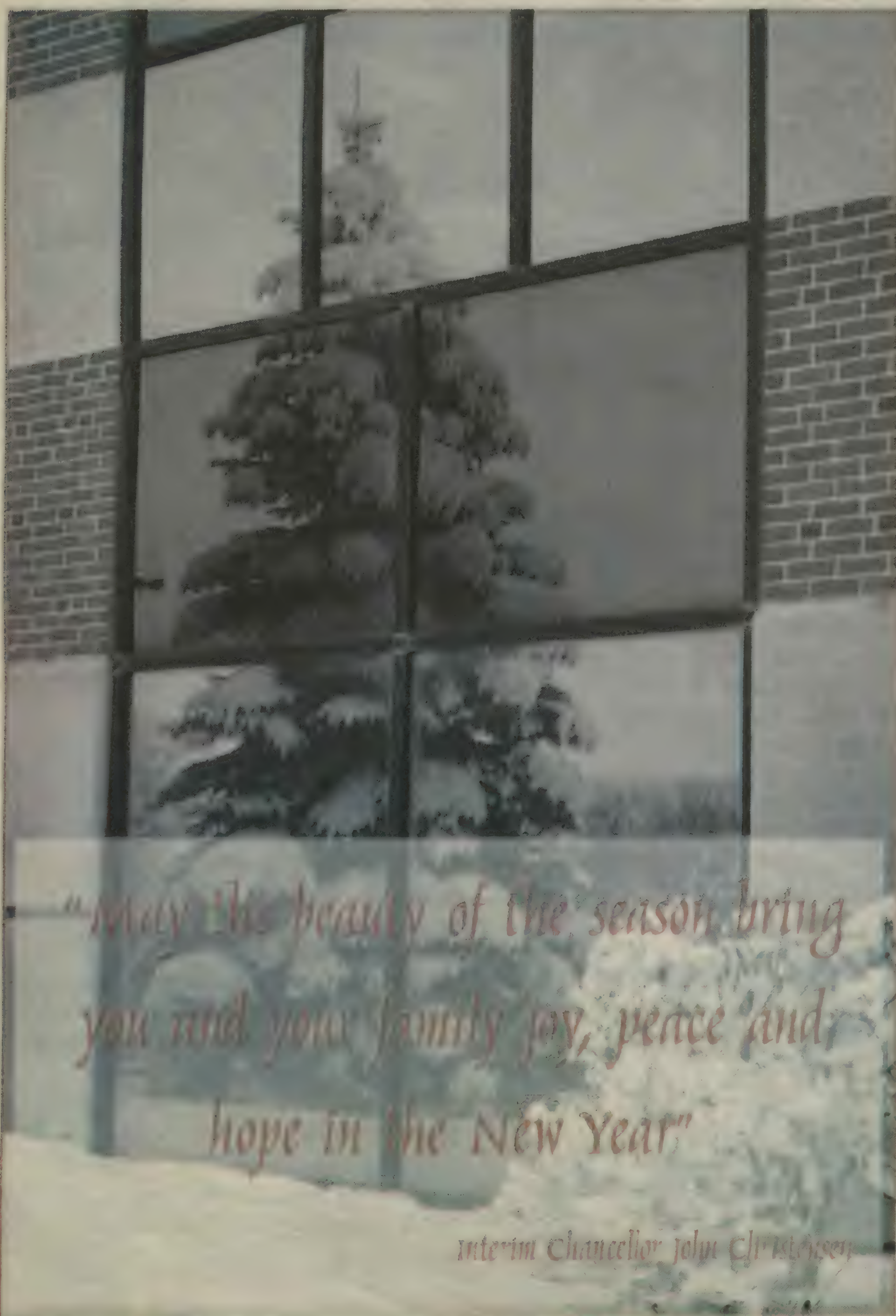
Opening Dec. 22

Night at the Museum – Ben Stiller is in charge of a Museum filled with things that come to life at night. A kid's movie that you don't have to be ashamed of paying to see? Impossible. This flick does look pretty decent minus the fact that Robin Williams will be playing one of our nation's most respected presidents.

We Are Marshall – The true story of the Marshall football program after a devastating plane crash killed most of its staff and players, starring Matthew McConaughey and Matthew Fox. A movie directed by McG that you don't have to be ashamed of paying to see? You gotta be kiddin' me. The director's name is McG, for the love of... But this will be a good one for guys to show they can be "sensitive" to their significant others.

Rocky Balboa – I don't think this

See **HOLIDAY MOVIES**: Page 15



Surf the web with the Webmaster

WWW with



Eric Sobczak

I found out about the deadline for this last issue late so I was unable to prepare as I normally would. I usually play The Grateful

10:50 - gmail.com - Check email. Nothing there.

10:51 - youtube.com - One of the featured videos is entitled "Real Men Knit Trailer." I assume this video is a spoof. It isn't. I am unable to appreciate this on a non-ironic level. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2jYa_rJyG18

10:54 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ThAs8xkePi8> - A live performance of the original Mario videogame. Four minutes and fifty-eight seconds of pure awesomeness.

10:59 - theonion.com - I realize the Onion updated today. I am extremely happy and entertained with the quality of content. "Nancy Pelosi Wants Congress To Want To Pass Bill" and "Rookie Cop Told To Ease Up On Crime Scene Tape" are my favorites.

11:11 - Check internet history - Realize I saw a hilarious yet disturbing video yesterday involving a cross dressing prank caller. The very end SERIOUSLY freaks me out. <http://one.revver.com/watch/113266>

11:14 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3eiASBBuFso> - A clip of Bob Dylan improvising words he sees on a sign from the documentary *No Direction Home*.

11:17 - Speed dump.

11:18 - youtube.com - I check out the Channels for thewinekone (<http://www.youtube.com/profile?user=thewinekone>) and BaratsAndBereta (<http://www.youtube.com/profile?user=BaratsAndBereta>) to see if they have posted any new videos. They haven't.

11:20 - <http://65.98.70.3/vbbs/forumdisplay.php?forumid=3> - I lurk around the huskerpedia.com forums. There is a link to a video of Husker highlights with Al Pacino's speech from *Any Given Sunday*. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZsBwnv0qU>

11:25 - images.google.com - I do an image search for pandas and wish they would figure out how to mate so the Henry Doorly Zoo could get one or ten. I wonder why pandas don't hibernate. I realize I know nothing about biology.

11:26 - Check up on my fantasy football team (0-13). I am the underdog by 3 for this weekend's games. Conclude that going 0-14 would be much better than 1-13 for humor's sake.

11:27 - Decide to stop looking at the internet in order to take shower and re-evaluate my life's direction.

Be sure to check back next semester for more World Wide Web starring Webmaster Eric Sobczak. Until then, happy surfing.



photo by Michelle Bishop

Many travelers are flying to holiday destinations all over the globe. Many students are heading off to ski lodges and Mexican beach-front resorts.

Last minute travel destinations

KATIE ZABROCKI
STAFF WRITER

I'm sorry. I have some bad news. You are in Nebraska. In December. And finals are next week.

The good news is that it's almost that wonderful time of the year; not Christmas or Hanukkah or Kwanzaa, but winter break! And there most certainly is still time to make plans to get out of town.

If you're interested in getting away but still want to enjoy some snowy winter weather, look into a Colorado ski trip. These trips can be a bit pricey when you add up gas, lodging, lift tickets and rentals, but going with a group can cut costs (Be prepared to spend \$300+). Popular places include Keystone, Breckenridge and Winter Park, among many others. You can ski or snowboard all day and then grab a local micro-brew while hanging out in a rustic lodge in front of a roaring fireplace. Ally Grier, a junior, is heading out to ski twice this winter break. "I plan on hitting the slopes then hitting up a few bars," said Grier.

If you are less interested in the outdoors and more interested in partying, check out New York or Las Vegas. These are especially great spots for trips over the New Year. Roundtrip tickets and hotel can get expensive (\$1,000+ for five nights), but could you ask for a more memorable Dec. 31? Imagine the action on The Strip or in Times Square, and no shortage of attractive potentials for a midnight kiss to ring in the New Year.

Maybe you have been too stressed out to deal with rigorous physical activity or big city nightlife. Warm weather destinations can provide a more relaxing vacation. Carnival

Cruises has great deals on four and five night Caribbean cruises under \$200 starting in New Orleans or Miami. You can also get some rest and a tan in Mexico.

"I need a stress-free break on the beach with nothing to do but lie in the sun, and not think about work, school or anything," said senior Jillian Kinzer, who is vacationing in Mexico over New Year's. Often a choice for spring break, its warm weather and resorts are appealing in the winter, too.

Allison Meyer, a senior who is student teaching this semester, is spending Christmas in Cabo San Lucas with her family. "For our present, we are all taking a whale-watching catamaran trip on the Sea of Cortez," she said.

It is quite possible that you are on a budget and can't afford New York or a cruise, but don't fret, there are plenty of budget trips available, too. Kansas City and Chicago are both big city destinations within driving distance. Perfect for a long weekend of Christmas shopping or a wild New Year's party, putting less strain on those strapped for cash.

To make your plan happen, check out orbitz.com for some deals on airfare and hotel or vacation packages. STAtravel.com and studentuniverse.com also offer student rates on many flights and often have cheap, last minute deals. Do some comparison shopping and take time to look into package deals. If you are not on a strict schedule, changing up arrival and departure dates from the weekend to mid-week will be cheaper.

It might be too late to pass all your classes, but there is definitely still time to plan a fantastic winter break.

From **HOLIDAY MOVIES:** Page 14



Sony Pictures

books that bad... The final chapter of the Rocky saga actually comes out on Dec. 20. Writer/director/star Sylvester Stallone says this is his favorite of the six films, and it's about time we saw Rocky back in the ring.

The Good Shepard - Robert De Niro directs an all-star cast led by Matt Damon in the story of the CIA's early years. How does anyone know what those years were like? I thought the CIA was all secret and stuff. Don't get it mixed up with *The Good German*.

Opening Christmas Day

Children of Men - Women can no longer have babies, so Clive Owen has to help safely transport the one woman that got preggies in the world to a sanctuary. Why is a science fiction movie opening on Christmas Day? Oh, well. This sounds pretty sweet.

Dreamgirls - A hit Broadway musical from 25 years ago hits theatres. The Oscar marketing has already bombarded TV sets and magazine racks. The movie isn't supposed to be all that good, but Eddie Murphy evidently knocked his performance out of the park. Who let Eddie Murphy make a comeback? I wanted a *Pluto Nash 2*.

The Good German - This is the other Matt Damon-starring Oscar bait with "Good" in the title. This one is a throwback to 1940s film noir and co-stars George Clooney. Sounds good to me. Early buzz has been disappointing, though. So we're on a "wait-and-see" holding pattern right now.

Black Christmas - See, it comes out on Christmas Day. Very clever. This is a remake of the old 1970s horror flick. So, if you're looking for a little blood after spending time with your family all day... well, go rent the first one, probably.

There you go. Of course, living in Omaha, we aren't considered a big enough market to get many films that will almost assuredly have Academy Award representation. So while this list is long, there are a lot of excluded movies that won't make it to the area until the new year, if they don't bypass theatres and go straight to video. Lame.

Speaking of lame, what a crappy awards season. Good luck finding entertainment this month.

B O O K S

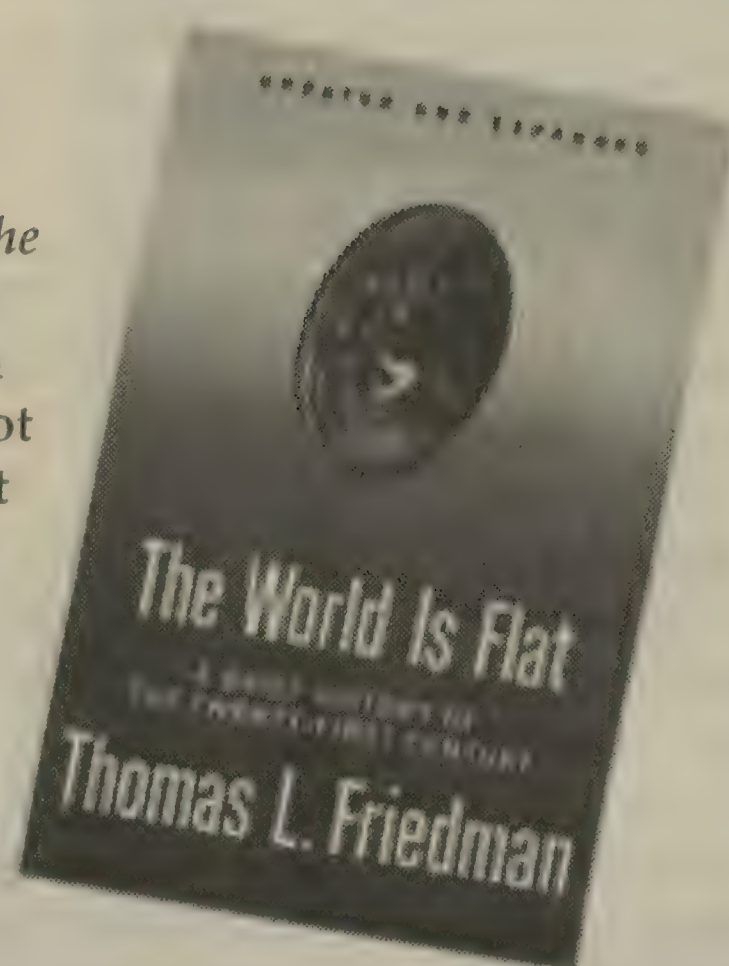
GATEWAY

Gift ideas for those CD's



I Like You: Hospitality Under the Influence – Amy Sedaris's insanely funny guide to throwing parties hopes to return readers to the times when the word "entertainment" was "charmingly old-fashioned, like courtship or back alley abortions."

The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century – This book is a superb introduction to globalization in our world today. You really cannot understand the 21st century without reading it.



Rock

Chris Daughtry *Daughtry* – Chris Daughtry, rocker favorite of American Idol season 5 releases his debut rock album to extreme hype. His new single "It's not over" is already tearing apart its competition. This guy has some amazing raw talent.



Country

Dixie Chicks *Taking The Long Way* – Since their 2003 "bushwacking," the Dixie Chicks have been quite the controversial group. "Taking The Long Way's," deep lyrics and strong vocals make this a country album for all.



Soundtrack

Greys Anatomy Season 2 – What could arguably be considered the best prime time drama in years, now has what could also be considered the best television soundtrack in years, actually, probably ever made. The CD is filled with the classic indie, folk and alternative music that is often found on the show. If you're a Grey's fan, you have to get this CD.



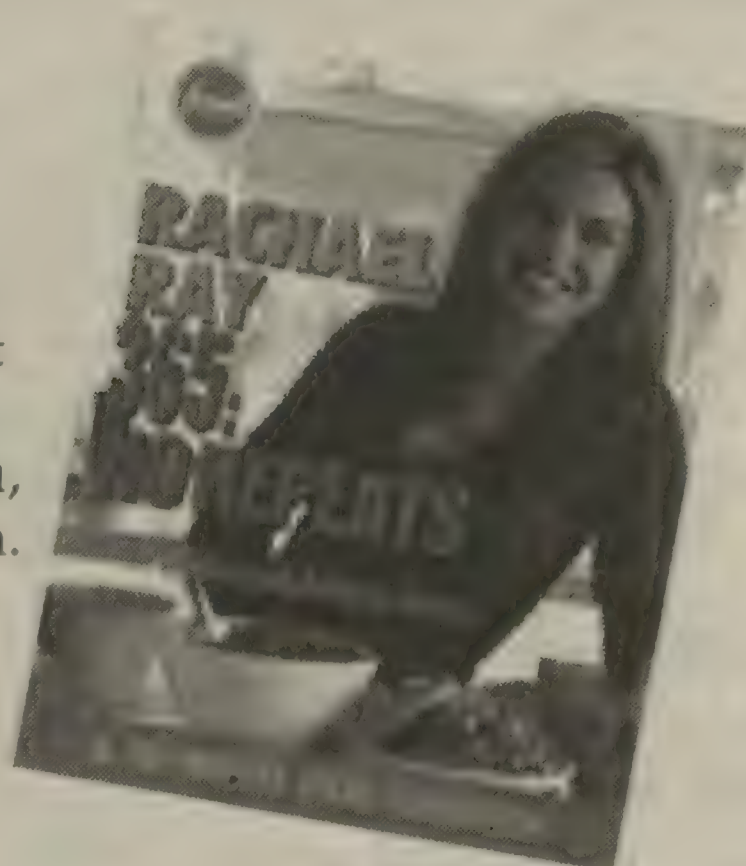
Classical

Josh Groban *Awake* – His pure voice and endless range make every song that echoes from his mouth, a piece of beautiful art. This album is no different. It's truly amazing.



Guinness World Records 2007 – This year's custom designed multi-foil cover is unique and created specifically for Guinness World Records after a year of collaboration. Rule Breakers, extreme bodies and oddities are a plenty.

Rachael Ray *365: No Repeats: A Year of Deliciously Different Dinners* – No longer will the old "I don't know what to make for dinner" be an accepted comment. Ray did all the work for you, all you have to is cook it..dun dun dun.



Running With Scissors – A brilliant and humorous story that takes place in the 1970's. A young boy lives with a crazy psychiatrist in a squalid household. Good enough book to have been made into an outrageous movie.



Pop

Scissor Sisters *Ta-dah!* – Simply a pop band like no other. If you don't like Scissor Sisters, then you just don't like fun. This Elton John-esque sounding band brings you to your feet with upbeat giddy songs with deep meanings. One of the best CD's on the shelves.

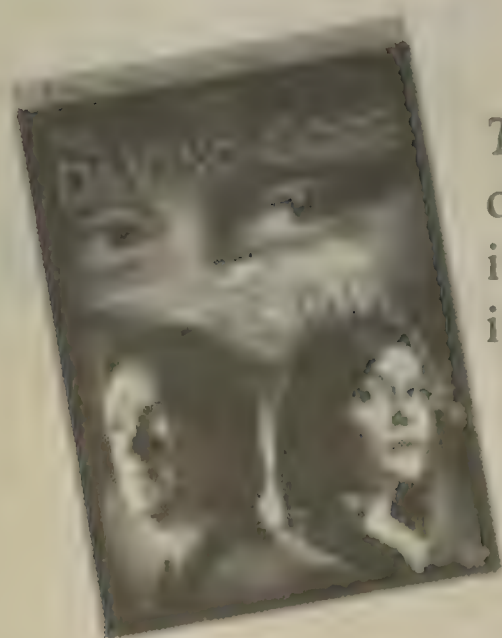
Alternative

Snow Patrol *Eyes Open* – There are certain bands that get in your face and demand your attention, Snow Patrol doesn't have to. They reel you in with their emotional lyrics and heart felt alternative approach. You've all heard "Chasing Cars," now hear the rest.



GIFT GUIDE

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The Da Vinci Code – The movie version of the best selling book may not have impressed avid Dan Brown fans, but it did impress the majority of the general public.



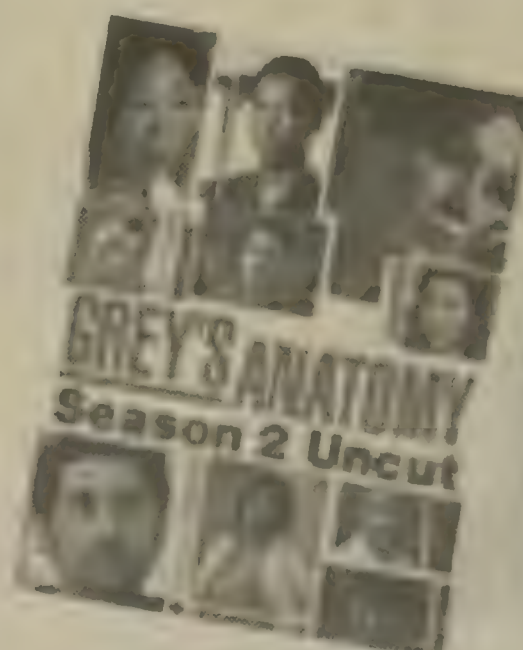
The Comeback Season 1 – Lisa Kudrow stars in this faux-reality show about a has been television star trying to work her way back to the top.



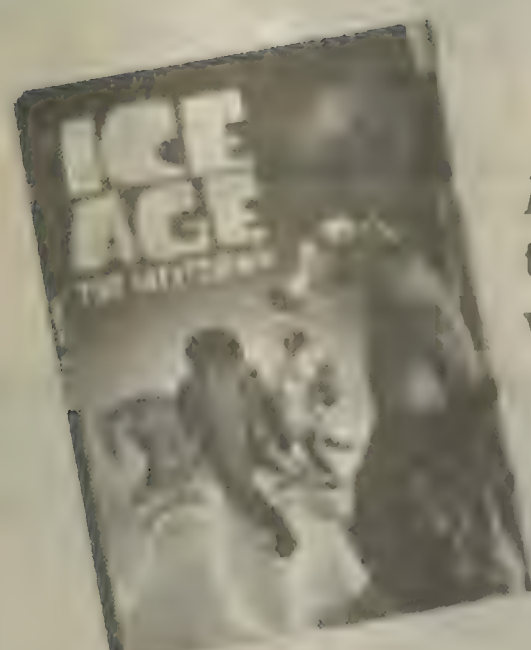
The Lake House – Sandra Bullock and Keanu Reeves show off their acting chops in this romantic and ingenious love story.



Family Guy Volume 4 – One of the funniest adult animated shows out there, Family Guy is gathering quite the fan base. Season 4 is the strongest season yet.



Greys Anatomy Season 2 – The number one drama in America is on its third season, but it's never to late to catch up on the drama from season 2.

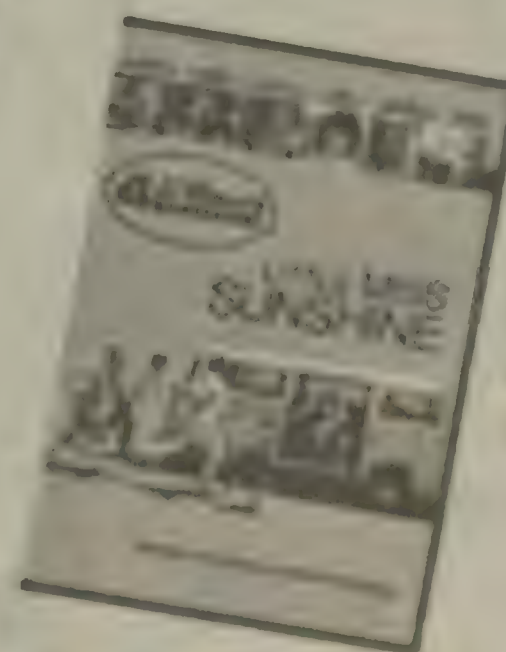


Ice Age: The Meltdown – This follow up to the 2002 Ice Age The Movie is a sure winner for children and adults alike.



The Office Season 2 – A spin off the hilarious UK television show. The American version is proving to be just as good if not better. The awkward humor and faux-reality show style is enough to make anyone laugh.

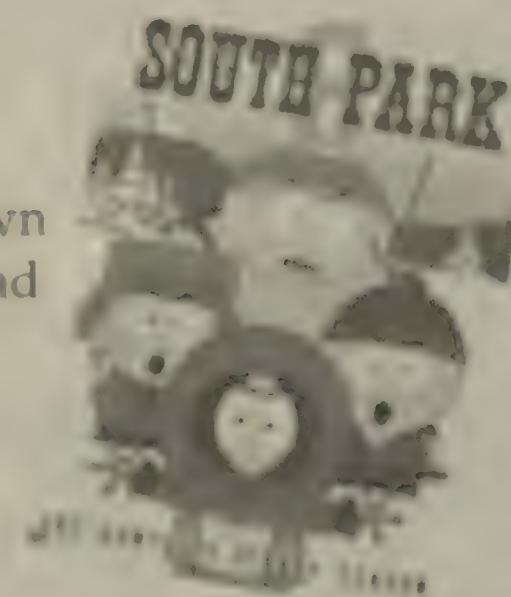
DVD's



Little Miss Sunshine – What started out as a low budget independent film turned into a box office comedic success.



An Inconvenient Truth – Who doesn't love a good documentary on global warming and the ultimate downfall of mankind?



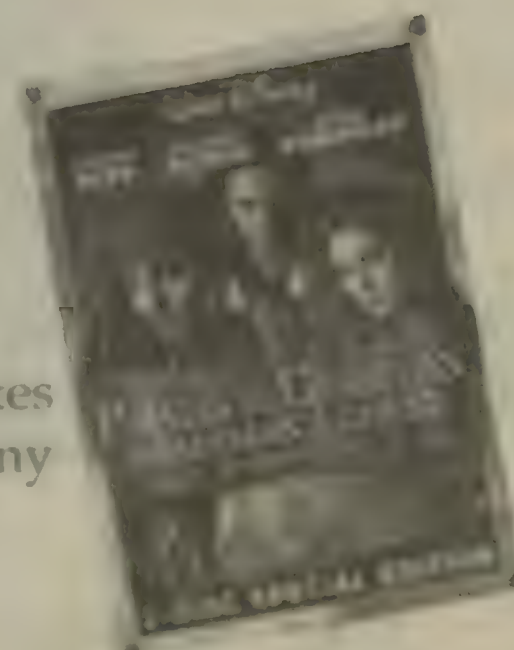
South Park Season 8 – Now on it's 8th season, "South Park" has definitely shown the television viewers that there is no end in site. At least we hope not!



Nip/Tuck Season 3 – Perhaps one of the most controversial and cutting edge shows on television, "Nip/Tuck" Season 3 is filled with lust, sexual appeal and drama (and more drama).



Over The Hedge – There is just something about talking mammals that draw people to the theatres. The DVD is no different.



Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest – With US box office numbers reaching \$423,032,628, the second film in the Pirates of the Caribbean will find a home in many DVD players this holiday season.

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Phillips Digital photo frame: - Why hide your photos in your camera when the new Phillips Digital Photo frame can display them without the hassle of getting them developed.
\$199 Sharper Image

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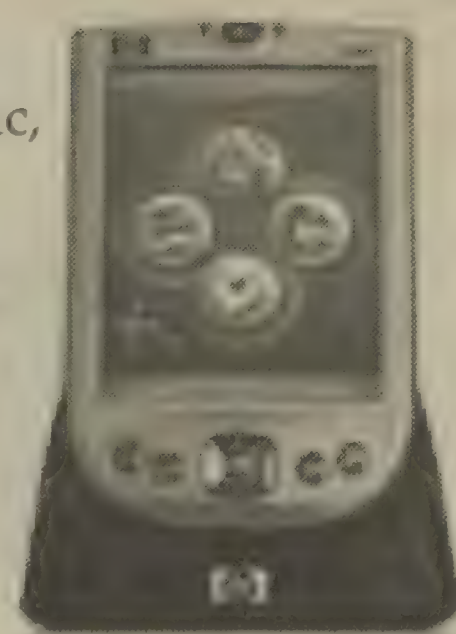
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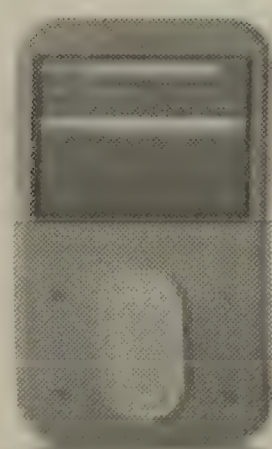
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HP Ipaq RX1955 Pocket PC - Enjoy music, videos, and Internet applications on the go, with control at your fingertips. Powered by Microsoft Windows Mobile 5.0 Pocket PC, the iPAQ rx1955 has big functionality for not much money.
\$284.00 Nebraska Furniture Mart



Speedball - This new baseball can record its speed up to 100 mph.
\$24.95 Discovery Channel Store

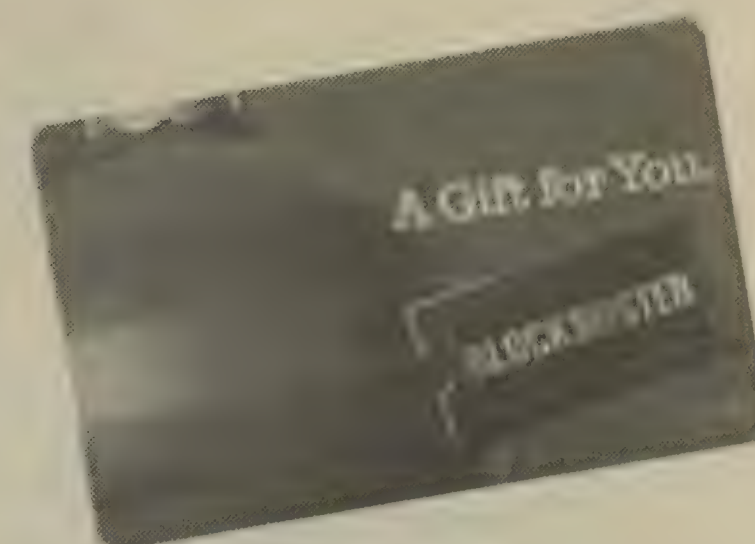


Creative Labs Zen Vision: M 30 GB - Don't let the compact and sleek design fool you. You can watch movies, television shows and rock out to your favorite tunes on the new ZEN mp3 player.
\$249.00 Best Buy

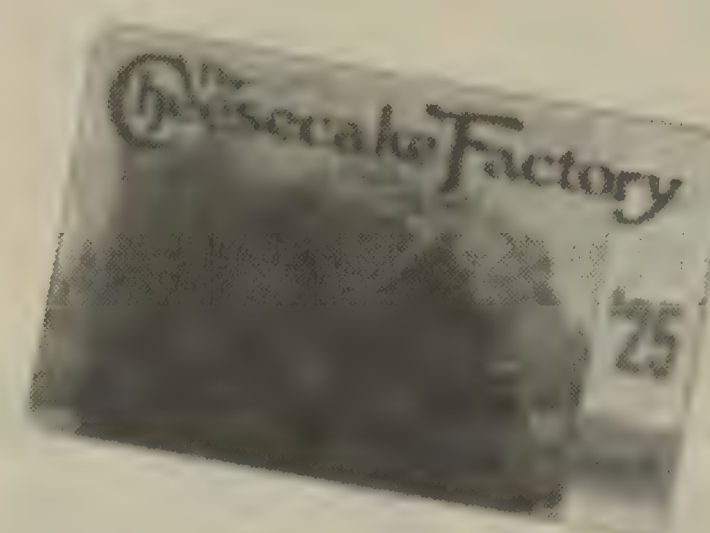
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Blockbuster - Can't go wrong with a Blockbuster card. Now the card can be used for on-line home delivery as well!



Cheesecake Factory - Doesn't really need an explanation. Everybody loves a little cheesecake.



Caribou Coffee - A new coffee chain in Omaha getting lots of hype.

Happy Holidays



from the Milo Bail Student Center

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\$30.00 *The Body Shop*

Elegant Spa Indulgence Tower – This sprawling array of spa items and delectable nibbles is bound to make your ladies Christmas memorable.

\$129.99 *Target*

Champagne Bucket & Lotion – Give your lady friend a champagne bucket filled with scented lotions, and look forward to a merry Christmas for the both of you.

\$75 *Bath and Body Works*

BATH & BODY

Conair Ultra Massaging Foot Spa – You cant go wrong with something that vibrates, massages, warms and jets

\$59.99 *Target*

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A gift beneficial to the both of you.

\$39.00 *The Body Shop*

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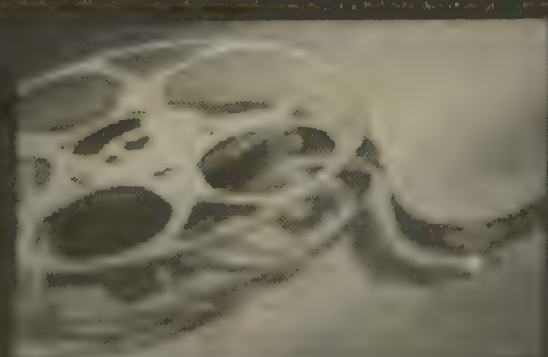
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Rumor Has It...

A look at what's in development--maybe



photo by Michelle Bishop

A & L Editor Andrew Cumbee is leaving the Gateway after three years of bringing movie-lovers the hottest pre-production movie gossip the Gateway has ever seen. And the "Drunk Diaries".

ANDREW CUMBEE
A & L EDITOR

And so it has come to pass. Rumor Has It... and my time as a Gateway staffer are coming to an end. This will be my final report on the cool new film projects coming out and my last time writing for this paper. But now's not the time for a goodbye. I still have one article to go. Here it is:

Kicking The Hobbit

The story of the month is Peter Jackson, the man behind the classic, epic *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. Every day, something is being said by someone involved in the future *Lord of the Rings* projects. Now the entire thing has gotten quite insane.

Jackson posted a press release on fansite TheOneRing.net a few weeks ago stating that he was off the two *Lord of the Rings* prequels that New Line is trying to get made. Now this was surprising for two reasons: First, Jackson wanted to make *The Hobbit* and New Line Cinema kicked him off? And second, they're planning to make two prequels? What the hell?

It had been rumored that there would be

some new films in the series, but this was the first confirmation *The Hobbit* received and the first mention of a second prequel that I had heard anything about.

The reason behind all of this is Jackson is currently involved in a lawsuit with New Line over accounting practices from *The Return of the King*. Jackson won't move to a new project with the company without that being first resolved and the lawsuit has stalled.

After Jackson released this statement to obvious and huge amounts of fan backlash, we learned a lot of new information. New Line loses the rights to author J.R.R. Tolkien's material next year and wanted to start on the films before that happened. However, the true owner of the material, The Saul Zaentz Company, who owns Tolkien Enterprises, and reacquires the rights next year, talked to some Web sites and said they have no fear that Jackson will be directing next year at a different studio.

This on top of MGM saying that they want Jackson. It's not quite clear if MGM's spokesperson was just defending the director or if the studio is actually considering purchasing the rights next year at this time.

On top of all of this, rumors have started circulating that Sam Raimi, director of the Spider-Man movies, has been approached to do *The Hobbit*.

So what's going to happen? That all depends on New Line. Will the stars align and see Jackson back in the *Lord of the Rings* director's chair? Let's hope. But a Raimi-directed *Hobbit* does sound pretty sweet...

Must be God's will...

After years in development hell, comic book series *Preacher* will be coming to a screen near you. Just not the one you thought. We originally heard that James Marsden, Cyclops from the *X-Men* films, was getting a film together on this series, but now HBO has commissioned a pilot episode.

This is the best news ever for fans of the comic which followed a preacher carrying within him Genesis, a being stronger than God. When God retires because of Genesis, the preacher goes on an incredibly long trip to restore order with his ex-girlfriend and his drunk, vampire friend. The series is so out there and so cool and so edgy that it's perfect for HBO.

The people involved in the pilot are some that we'll have to hope just don't mess it up. We have the director of *Daredevil* and *Ghost Rider* (I actually think *Daredevil* is underrated, though, so he may be great), Mark Steven Johnson as the writer. And

we have Howard Deutch directing. These are the guys behind the *Grumpy Old Men* series. So yeah... Cross your fingers, because if they don't screw it up, this series will be one hell of a ride.

Also in comics adaptations...

The Punisher: Extended Cut DVD was just released and with it some information on its still-gestating sequel. Not really any information here except that it is still in the works, it will take place in New York City and the villain will be Jigsaw from the comics.

I liked *The Punisher*. I thought it was a great revenge flick if not a good superhero/action film. But everyone knows that sequels are better for this type of movie. Hurry up and make it already.

Jamie Foxx recently conducted an interview with IESB.net and for some reason the film adaptation of Marvel's *Luke Cage* series came up. It wasn't widely known that Foxx was in the running to play the title character, but I guess he was. Unfortunately, he only talked about why he wasn't playing the character any more. Sometimes, we're best left in the dark. John Singleton is still attached to direct the movie and most are claiming that Tyrese Gibson will take the role.

Warner Bros. just hired Guillermo del Toro to produce and direct an adaptation of DC Comics' *Deadman* character. *Deadman* was a circus acrobat who was murdered and was granted the power to possess the living for short periods of time to fight crime and help solve his own murder.

This is coolest pairing of director to superhero

that we have yet seen in the booming comics film market. Del Toro previously did *Hellboy*, *Mimic* and *Blade II*. This will be one to watch.

Quick Hits

Vin Diesel dropped out of *Hitman*, the adaptation of the hit video game series. Timothy Olyphant from "Deadwood" has stepped in. What is Diesel doing any more, anyway?

He was perfect for this movie.

Is he trying to kill his career?

Steven Spielberg is producing "The Talisman" for TNT. The six-hour mini-series was written by Ehren Krueger, writer of *Scream 3* and *Arlington Road*. The book is a classic, known to fans of Stephen King and Peter Straub who co-wrote the book in 1983. This should be good. Spielberg was meant to direct the film in 1985; we'll see if this lives up to the name.

Finally today, for you Sylvester Stallone fans out there be sure to check out aint-it-cool-news.com. In preparation for the release of *Rocky Balboa* this Christmas, Stallone is answering 10 questions from fans a day. Nothing is off limits. He's talked about his failures, his loves, his dream projects and plenty about the upcoming *Rambo IV: Pearl of the Cobra*.

And that's it for me. My time here has been great even under the most stressful deadlines. Thank you to everyone that read my articles over the years and maybe you'll be seeing or hearing from me somewhere else soon. Also, thanks to everyone on *The Gateway* staff for supporting me and, more importantly, dealing with my being always on the edge of incompetence. Again, this has been a wonderful, irreplaceable experience. Thank you all.



DC Comics

Guillermo del Toro will direct the *Deadman* movie soon to be in production.



New Line Cinema

The *Hobbit* film is now in production but *Lord of the Rings* trilogy director Peter Jackson is not attached.

Holiday gift ideas for the poor, but creative college student

Remember those collect phone call company commercials that asked what you could get for just 99 cents? A burger was out. No cup of coffee for you. However, a collect phone call to a loved one, a priceless, if brief, long-distance conversation, was beautifully attainable with that jingling pocket change.

Now I'm going to ask you what you can get with \$10. A hot meal? Ay. A cold brewsky? Sweet satisfaction. Ten Powerball tickets? I digress. Let me rephrase the question. What can you do for others, others that you love and cherish, for a mere \$10?

Ah, the holidays. Time for eggnog, snow and mistletoe. Time for a little break in the monotonous class schedule. And time for college students to realize the money they just got from book buyback may not cut it when it comes to their holiday shopping lists. Aside from racking up ludicrous credit-card bills (hey, you already did that for tuition and books, right?) you can give the people you care about, and even that cousin you drew in the family gift exchange or your cranky coworker who you picked for secret Santa, a great and thoughtful gift for under \$10.

According to the Better Budgeting Web site and my own genius mind, here are a few popular and affordable gift ideas:

A hot cup o' joe is a perfect gift for this chilly time of year! Give a \$10 Starbucks gift card to that coffee

lover in your life. Be more personal by picking up a bag of a special brew and a coffee mug that you makes you think of that caffeine fiend. You can do the same with tea, and add a jar of honey!

For the game shark, a nice deck of cards (Hooters for your brother, Barbie for your little cousin, etc.) and a book of card games. And those games can be even more fun when you add a little spiked eggnog and crazy Aunt Sue!

For the classy lassie (or lad), make a basket of fruit and cheese: looks good, tastes better!

Know a movie buff? Give them a movie rental gift card and gourmet popping corn with flavored oil in a pretty arrangement. Give it to someone you fancy, maybe they'll ask you to join!

Families will enjoy a board game, the gift that keeps on giving (until Fido eats the Monopoly pieces and Mom gets sick of letting Timmy win Chutes and Ladders).

Christmas ornaments or other holiday decorations are great gifts that will get a lot of use. Sure they won't be able to use it for long this year, but they can use next year, and the year after that, and the year after that. A lot of people start an ornament-giving tradition or exchange with family members.

For more ideas, use your brain (since you won't be using it for class) or check out betterbudgeting.com.

Burning fashion question? Hot couture topic? Anything else? E-mail me! Ammay@mail.unomaha.edu

Real Fashion



Alex May

UNO loses instructor, legend

Guest Voice

BY ROBERT DUDASH

Most of the students here at UNO at some point in there academic careers, and the faculty as well, have at some point been in the HPER building. The majority of people either go there to run on the treadmill, play a game of basketball with their friends, or lift some weights, but how many people are able to say that their lives where changed in that building, in room 110 to be more specific? What is so special about room 110? Nothing, in and of itself, but it was who was in that room, Grand Master Suk Ki Shin.

The accomplishments of Grand Master Shin span five decades, two continents, and people, not just martial artists all over the world, know of him and respect him. Throughout his career in martial arts, Grand Master Shin held positions instructing here at UNO, Creighton University, Yong In University in South Korea, and had his own school, Shin's Academy here in Omaha for over 30 years. He obtained the ranks of 9th Dan (degree) Taekwondo, 8th Dan Hapkido, 4th Dan Judo, and 4th Dan in Kumdo (the traditional stick fighting art of Korea). Some other accomplishments include: being the 1st All Asian Games Champion, the 1966 Korean Champion, the coach of the 1975 World University Taekwondo Team, and

was a bodyguard for President Chung Hee Park of South Korea.

Grand Master Shin trained thousands of students throughout his life; a number of nearly 10,000 has been suggested. The black belts that he has trained have opened schools all over America, and some have even been motivated to move overseas to Korea and other countries in pursuit of a greater wisdom of the way we live and practice our arts.

Simply knowing Grand Master Shin was an experience. His love for life was infectious, and so was his laugh that could be heard when he was not even in sight. My personal experience is difficult to put into words, and I am sure that many who knew him feel the same way. He gave so many people direction and goals to strive for, and made the task of living seem so incredibly easy, you wanted live the same way.

Grand Master Shin will be missed by people from Omaha to South Korea, and he will never be forgotten. Through his teachings and his ability to make one strive to be a better person and to better their community, Grand Master Shin will never die, and will forever be in the hearts of thousands.

Thank you for everything Sir. We will miss you terribly.

Ho, ho, hold on! Whatever happened to the holiday spirit?

Let's get Bretarded



Bre Gherken

and find the best deal at the lowest price. I am talking about the Friday after Thanksgiving. This is the day of the best sales records in retail history and the kick-off of the insane holiday season. Why is the first day of the holidays marked by the biggest shopping day of the year?

I think society places too much stress on presents and monetary giving that we lose sight of what is really important. I realize I sound like a Hallmark card, but it's true. Why do we raise our kids to think that the holiday season is all about getting stuff that we don't really need and scrounging at the last second to buy other people stuff that they don't need? Why don't we give to a charity or go donate our time at a homeless shelter?

Parents really spoil their kids. When I was growing up, I was grateful for anything that my parents got for me. From the lame sweaters that looked like they were knitted by Freddy Krueger's mom to the guitar that my parents saved up for.

Christmas isn't about presents and material objects. It was originally about this dude named Jesus, who, according to some, gave up his life so you could sit on your greedy ass on his birthday and play your brand-new Nintendo Wii for which your mom waited outside of Wal-Mart for 17 hours to fistfight other like-minded mothers, just so she could overpay for your greedy gaming habits.

Now, I bet some of you are thinking that I shouldn't have brought Jesus into this article. However, I happen to celebrate Christmas; therefore, it is the only analogy that I can correctly make

without offending the beliefs of others. Secondly, why must everything always be politically correct?

I noticed that most retail places stopped calling them "holiday trees" this year. It's a Christmas tree. It is meant for Christians, not Muslims or Jewish people, so why all the fuss? Trying to keep the holidays politically correct has placed a damper on the whole holiday experience.

Nomatter what religion you are, you should feel free to celebrate it without the pressures of being politically correct. We are one of a few great countries that allow religious freedom, so why not celebrate our religious diversity instead of generalizing it?

For those of you who still think Santa Claus is real, you may want to stop reading this article right now. For those who know that horrible truth and were devastated when you found out that your parents were lying to you for 10 years, you may continue reading.

Christmas can be a horrible holiday when you think about it. For most families, Christmas centers on the idea that a ridiculously fat man is going to fly his reindeer on top of your roof and climb down your chimney - assuming you have one - and place everything you've always wanted under your tree. This holiday tradition, when spelled out, actually sounds creepy. I know that if I saw an old guy dressed in red creeping about my house at midnight, I would call the cops.

And, correct me if I am wrong, but isn't one of the Ten Commandments "Thou shall not lie?" Christmas is currently teaching our youth that lies are OK if they are fun and involve presents. Why not teach our children the truth behind Christmas?

There comes a point when the true meaning is overridden by the created meaning, and tradition is lost. This is when we develop a need to show our love and appreciation through money and presents. Whatever happened to giving someone a hug or doing something nice for someone you care about? Christmas is fun, don't get be wrong, but I think society has tainted the way we view the holidays and skewed our ideas of what is really important.



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Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the University of Nebraska at Omaha or the University of Nebraska Board of Regents.

Opinions in columns and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Gateway staff or the publications committee.

Letters to the editor will be selected for publication on the basis of timeliness, clarity

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Letters must be signed using the writer's first and last names. Letters must include the writer's address and phone number for verification purposes only. Letters to the editor exceeding two typed pages will not be considered for publication.

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All readers are welcome to send their opinion or comments to the Gateway. Letters can be sent by mail, e-mail or fax. All letters should include the writer's name, address and phone number. Contact information will never be published. The Gateway reserves the right to reject letters or edit letters for clarity and space.

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E-Mail: editor@gateway.unomaha.edu

Read the Gateway
... we know you've got time.



From **FINALS:** Page 6

chips for \$3.95 to students who have worked up an appetite. And those who want to take a load off can play games offered in the café or get a 10-minute chair massage. Revise Massage Therapy will set up a station from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. near the entrance of the library where students receive neck, back, arms and finger massages from massage specialists.

Senior Rachael Green and junior Ann Sawatzki prepare for finals by cramming and working with study groups. Both Sawatzki and Green agreed that the massages were a good idea.

"It would be a good reason to go to the library," said Sawatzki.

Green said, "It would definitely get me to study more at the library."

Sophomore Ryan Furey plays Nintendo when he needs a study break. When he heard of the library's Study Sunday, he thought it was "pretty spiffy."

"I think it's good that they're actively engaging students to study," he said. "They should have it every weekend."

From **CAMPUS SECURITY:** Page 3

want."

After the incident, Croghan said he was told if he did not stay quiet he would be fired. On Nov. 29 he was terminated with no explanation given, according to a letter he sent to the chancellor, vice-chancellor, athletics director, Board of Regents and the *Gateway*.

Within the letter, Croghan stated he believed the incident to be "clearly drug trafficking or at the very least drug possession with the intent to deliver, and the [...] UNO Security Officer on duty let them go."

The university received Croghan's letter, according to a statement released Dec. 4, but could not comment on any personnel issues. The university is currently investigating Croghan's allegations.

Croghan said the incidents he saw during his employment were enough for him to tell his daughter, who attended UNO last year, "to never come back."

"I think that if any parent believes that UNO Security is looking out for their son or daughter's well-being, I think that's a mistake," said Croghan.

Croghan described numerous

Student Health Services put together a health kit providing students with a stress ball, a Tylenol packet, candy and a pen. Mav Services also provided a \$2 Mav Card for students.

"We know that this can be a stressful time for students," said Marcia Adler, director of Student Health Services, in a press release. "We're thrilled to partner with the library on this student-focused activity. Our stress kit is just one way we can be of service to the students this time of year."

The library will also hold a drawing, giving students a chance to win an FM radio that they can use to tune in to any audio station in the library.

"We just want to have a place for students to relax and have a little fun," Roberts said.

Roberts said the library would have extra supplies and study flash cards for those in need of them.

"This is a student-focused activity," she said. "We're here for the students."

situations in which he believed officers overstepped their boundaries, including the singling out and harassment of hockey and football players.

On his first night shift, Croghan said another officer drove him around and pointed out several cars with Canadian plates as well as residences on campus.

"[The officer] didn't feel the consequences were enough for these hockey players, so we watched them. We watched their vehicles."

Croghan also described instances where officers routinely dealt with sexual harassment.

"I have been contacted by several UNO officers, one who complained of sexual harassment," said Croghan. He said another officer was regularly called "queer and fag" by other officers.

The only way to fix the problems, Croghan said, is to have other officers come forward and start an investigation.

"I'm hoping now that other officers will come forward and tell the truth," he said.

The officers named in Croghan's letter did not return calls.

From **FAFSA:** Page 6

application.

"I just really can't afford [tuition]," he said. Students like Hindes, who are renewing their application, may experience the financial aid equivalent of "sticker shock" applying for new loans in 2007. Many students have not yet felt the affects of new 6.8-percent fixed-interest rate that officially went in to effect on July 1 of this year.

"I think it's good that students be aware that certainly there's interest on these loans," Sell said. "If [students] are thinking about taking a loan out and not really sure if they want to or not, those are certainly questions they can ask us."

Sell wants students to make the application process as easy as possible on

From **DUI:** Page 5

also released figures showing the number of convictions for DUI arrests has steadily gone up since 1996 with 11,357 convictions out of 14,525 arrests in 2005.

Students at UNO need to be forewarned because all DUI laws are in effect on campus as well. Paul Kosel, assistant manager of campus security said they have had a few incidents where students were drinking on campus but they have never encountered a student driving under the influence so far this year.

The DUI enforcement campaign will issue tickets to anyone who is over the legal blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent.

First offenders can look forward to a criminal citation, which is a Class W misdemeanor. Subsequent offenders, particularly those who have come upon their

From **SMOKING:** Page 6

to address concerns from students," Massara said. "To me, it's a compromise. It is a semi-enclosed area. There's been complaints [for] the last four years that I've been here from faculty, staff and students."

At this time, it is unclear whether the future will bring a campus-wide ban or more designated smoking or non-smoking areas.

Interim Chancellor John Christensen thinks that the debate will continue for an unknown time. "It seems to me not just to be a campus issue; this seems to be an issue that is being discussed in communities, about where or where not the public feels like

themselves and get their applications in by March 1, but says students shouldn't worry if they miss the deadline. Of the 11,000 students that annually apply for aid, only a third apply by the deadline.

"About another third of that group will apply by mid-summer, still enough time for us to get us aid processed," he said. "But, of course, those student aid packages, in some cases, are less."

However, Hindes doesn't plan to be in that group. When asked about applying by the priority deadline, "I am."

Students can file their FAFSA online at fafsa.ed.gov and can contact the Office of Financial Aid in Eppley Administration room 103 with any questions.

third offense and have a BAC exceeding 0.15 percent, will be immediately arrested and booked with a felony charge.

To avoid this, students across campus who will be going out for the holidays and consuming alcohol should designate a driver to cart around their drinking companions.

Junior Robert Brown, a marketing major, said whenever he goes out with friends and plans to drink, they always try to designate a driver.

"We've also been known to get a little crazy once on a while and had to call a cab," he said.

The DUI campaign will be enforced throughout the holidays to ensure safer streets for drivers, it will take reckless drunk drivers off the road and help to prevent those fatal deaths that are alcohol related.

smoking is appropriate or not appropriate. And so I would expect the campus is kind of a microcosm of the community, that those discussions will continue to take place on campus," Christensen said.

While the trial period will determine how students react to the ban, whether it is accepted and whether it will continue, Massara thinks that the library's underpass area needs to be smoke-free. "Personally, and I love my cigars, but I feel smoking underneath that enclosed area is not in the best interest of the staff, faculty and students," Massara said.

Classified Ads

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Contact Campus Security, EAB 100, 554-2648.
Turned-in items can be claimed by a description and proper identification.

Advertising for items lost or found on the UNO campus will be published free in the Gateway for two weeks. Forms are available at the Office located in Milo Bail 1st Floor.

This is our last fall semester issue. The paper picks back up on Jan. 9.

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Community Living Instructors

DSN, Inc. is a non-profit organization that serves children, adolescents, and adults with developmental disabilities. We are seeking employees who are motivated to advance their career in the social services field and want to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Evening and weekend shifts available. Contact Kayla at (402) 827-7652.

The Citrus Lounge is now hiring bartenders & wait staff. Please apply in person, Mon-Sat after 3pm. 14616 West Center Rd.

Mon-Fri 3-5pm (3-5 days/week). Responsible person to pick up and take older children home from school. 120th & Pacific area. \$8/hr. Call Julie @ 677-2049.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

One of a kind Antiques Collectibles and MORE Christmas SALE 20-50% off thru December 31st. Find that unique item for anyone on your Christmas list. Furniture, jewelry, western, albums, antique toys and more. 4679 Leavenworth Tues-Thurs 3pm-8pm, Friday 2-6pm, Saturday 10am-6pm. 660-0778. Jim's Seek and Save.

Maverick Voices

What do you want for Christmas

COMPILED BY
PATRICK DOTY
Asst. Photo & Line Editor



Aaron Steube
Junior – Construction Engir
An iPod. Probably the sma
or the middle one. But not



Tenisha McKay
Senior – Pre-nursing/Geront
I said that I want an iPod. A
iPod, for convinience so I c
it around. Now I just have r
computer, I don't have anyt



Megan Hoover
Senior – English
A Waterpik. You can get
a portable one for like
\$30. And there's this thing
called a "Tea-drip." It's
kind of like a coffee maker
but for tea. I saw it on TV,
and Target has them.



Ben Botkin
Freshman – Undecided
buy a TV. A big TV. I don't
t one of those that are like 50
inches.



Rashod McKay
5 years old
I want a Spongebob
[Squarepants] game. And
an Xbox. With games, Tony
Hawk and Spongebob. And
some my mommy doesn't
want me to have. And I



Scott Murray
Sophomore
tectural Engineering – I just
ent and bought a laptop and
ar, so I just want accessories
r those. Probably just like a
stereo for my car.



All photographs by Patrick Doty

From **FOOD BANK**: Page 9



photo by Michelle Bishop

For every dollar its collects, the Omaha Food Bank is able to distribute \$18
worth of food to needy families in Nebraska and western Iowa.

too," Knapp said.

The items the Food Bank needs most during December include any items that would assist in making a holiday meal, such as frozen turkeys, canned vegetables and canned fruits.

Knapp said the Food Bank distributes between 5 to 6 million pounds of food each year to more than 360 charitable organizations. The majority of the recipients, she said, live in the Metro area.

To help support the Food Bank with their increasing needs, the UNO chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) held several fundraising events this semester, including a Kids 'N' Cans carnival, several bake sales and an Italian night. They also set up boxes and barrels around campus in order to collect non-perishable items for the Food Bank, said Karen Weber, the PRSSA faculty advisor. She estimated that they will accumulate approximately 900 pounds of food through these collection points.

Weber said PRSSA became interested in helping the Omaha

Food Bank after Hurricane Katrina, in the late summer and fall of 2005.

"We found out the local food bank pantries were being depleted," she said. "So much focus on charitable giving was going to the Gulf Coast region, and that was very important, but we saw news stories that local needs weren't being met."

Another statistic they found last year was that 41 percent of children in Douglas County live below the poverty line.

"There's a lot of working poor in Omaha who need the services of the Omaha Food Bank," Weber said. "And that just lit a fire under our students."

Weber said PRSSA has enjoyed a great partnership with the Food Bank over the past year.

"It's just a wonderful experience for the students," she said.

PRSSA also plans to give \$500 to the Omaha Food Bank this semester that they accumulated through their various fundraisers, Weber said.

Anyone interested in volunteering for the Food Bank can call them at (402) 331-1213. "We have a lot of food that needs to be sorted during the holidays," Knapp said. She said local food pantries could also use volunteers, as they are the ones that put the holiday meal boxes together.

"The best goal is that food banks don't have to exist at all," Knapp said. "That would mean there weren't people that needed food."



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CAMPUS SECURITY OFFERS HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

Campus Security would like to remind the campus community of some common sense safety tips to practice during the holiday season.

"With so many students, staff and faculty rushing to get shopping done or taking care of end-of-the-semester tasks, security issues may take a backseat" said Paul Kosel, assistant manager of Campus Security and traffic at UNO. "A few simple tips can make a big difference."

- When a person leaves his or her room or office, lock it up, even if it's only for a few minutes.
- Avoid leaving valuables or packages in plain view in a vehicle. Place them in the trunk or between the seats. When possible, do so before parking.
- During the holiday break, take valuables home from campus offices and residence halls.
- Anyone who is going to be working on campus late in the evening or when few people are around should consider advising Campus Security so that an officer can pay special attention to the area.
- Anyone entering a locked residence hall, apartment building or campus building should make sure the door closes completely. Strangers should not follow anyone into a secure building.
- Students who live on campus and are leaving town for the holidays should make sure they have someone keeping an eye on their residence and leave emergency contact information.

For more information, call Campus Security at x4-2648.

Happy Holidays



Back: Chantel Crockett (left), Mo Hussain, Jason Glenn, Charley Reed, Patrick Doty, Ashley Stutte & Michael McManus

Front: Sally Gutschow (left), Angi Sada, Sarah Legg & Michelle Bishop

from the Gateway